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GRAND CHAPTER
ABSTRACT OF
PROCEEDINGS

1865-69

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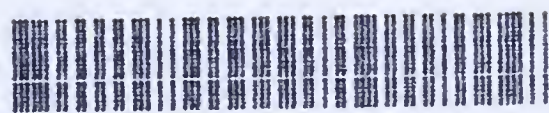
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Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

ABSTRACT

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF

The Most Excellent Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING,

BEING EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF ITS

QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

DURING THE YEARS

A. D. 1865, 1866, 1867 — A. I. 2395, 2396, 2397.

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1865-69

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Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, February 20th, A. D. 1865, A. I. 2395.

The following report was read and accepted:

The Committee of Finance report, that they have audited and settled the account of the Grand Treasurer, and take great pleasure in stating that they have found the same correct.

RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR 1864.

From Chapters,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$780 58
“ Mark Lodges,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	172 95
“ Warrants,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24 00
“ Investments,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	192 62
“ Sale of gold,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	145 21
								<hr/>
Total receipts,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$1,315 36
Balance from 1863,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	268 79
								<hr/>
Amounting to	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$1,584 15

DISBURSEMENTS DURING 1864.

On account of Constitution, to wit:

Lithographing,	\$250 00	
Printing,	319 73	
Binding,	182 25	
	<hr/>	\$751 98
Sundry Printing,		55 00
Grand Secretary's Salary, Stationery and Expenses of Office,		300 00
Grand Tyler's Salary,		71 00
Repairing Organ,		25 00
Brokerage on exchanging 7-30's,		2 50
		<hr/>
Total Disbursements,		\$1,205 48
Balance in Treasury,		378 67
		<hr/>
Amounting in all to		\$1,584 15
		<hr/>
The year's Receipts were	\$1,315 36	
The year's Payments were	1,205 48	
	<hr/>	
Amount of Receipts over Disbursements,	\$109 88	
Balance last year,	268 79	
	<hr/>	
Makes Balance on hand,		\$378 67

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

JOSEPH S. RILEY,
JAMES SIMPSON.

February 18, 1865.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, May 15, A. D. 1865, A. I. 2395.

The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted, viz. :

Add to ARTICLE XV. (B,) page 26, as follows :

SECTION 5. "No Companion can be elected High Priest of a Chapter, who has not been elected and served as King or Scribe of a Chapter in this jurisdiction, except at the formation of a new Chapter; and no brother can be elected Master of a Most Excellent or Mark Lodge, who has not been elected and served as Warden of a Most Excellent or Mark Master's Lodge respectively in this jurisdiction, except at the formation of a new Lodge."

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, with a few eloquent and feeling remarks, announced to the Grand Chapter the death of Past Grand High Priest, Companion William Whitney, which sad event occurred in Philadelphia, March 11th, 1865, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

Companion George Griscom, Most Excellent Grand Scribe, then addressed the Grand Chapter, as follows :

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter :

Since our last Quarterly Grand Communication, it has been the will of the Almighty Disposer of events to take from us the

earthly companionship of one of the most beloved and distinguished of the members of this Grand Chapter. By the unexpected decease of Past Grand High Priest WILLIAM WHITNEY, the members of this Grand Chapter have been called upon to mourn the loss of a most faithful and steadfast Companion of the Order, whose bright intellect and guileless heart secured for him the highest respect and the warmest esteem of his fellow-men wherever he was known.

The long and useful Masonic career of Companion Whitney will make one of the brightest pages in the history of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

On the present occasion, from the very short time for preparation allowed me, a brief statement of some of its principal events is all that can be offered.

Companion William Whitney was born in Princeton, Massachusetts, on the 10th day of January, 1799. He died in the city of Philadelphia on the 11th of March, 1865, aged sixty-six years and three months. He became thoroughly a Pennsylvanian in both his Masonic and his business career; having come to the city of Philadelphia when but nineteen years of age, and, with the exception of a few years business sojourn in Europe, made Philadelphia his permanent residence until his lamented decease.

He was initiated into the Masonic Order in November, 1823, crafted in January, 1824, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in March, 1824, in Rising Star Lodge No. 126, at Philadelphia, in the twenty-fifth year of his age. He withdrew from that Lodge and sailed for Europe, and continued in business at Manchester, England, for several years.

After his return, he joined Lodge No. 51, in this city, in January, 1833. In this Lodge he served twice as Senior Warden, and three years as Worshipful Master. In the Grand Lodge, his merits and eminent abilities were ever conspicuous, and his career was one of continuous honors and success. He served successively as Junior and Senior Grand Deacon, Junior and Senior Grand Warden, and Deputy Grand Master, and was elected and served as Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, for the years 1850 and 1851.

He also served on several of the Committees of the Grand Lodge, and lastly, was Chairman of the Committee on Finance of that body, in which important and responsible position he

managed the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge for over nine years, with marked ability and with universal approbation.

He became a Royal Arch Mason in Columbia H. R. A. Chapter No. 91, at Philadelphia, having taken all the degrees in May, 1837. After having served in nearly all the subordinate stations, he was elected and served as Grand King, in 1842, and as Grand High Priest of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, for the years 1843 and 1844.

As a Royal Arch Mason, the career of Companion Whitney was distinguished by that consistent devotion to the principles, and zeal for the interests of the Order, which so strongly marked his whole conduct through all the eminent positions of his useful Masonic life.

He was remarkable for the straightforward simplicity of his character. With a strong capacity for business, he combined the most unswerving integrity of purpose. With a high order of intellectual ability, he showed no inordinate ambition for display or power. He quietly and conscientiously pursued the path of duty, with a singleness of purpose ever to support and defend the right.

The following resolutions, submitted by Companion Griscom, were then, on motion duly seconded, unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That, while bowing in humble submission to the will of our Heavenly Supreme Ruler, we, the officers and members of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, have learned with sincere and profound sorrow of the decease of our late Past Grand High Priest, Companion WILLIAM WHITNEY; whose virtuous life, eminent ability and distinguished services, raised him to the highest honors of our Order, while his kindness of heart, his unswerving integrity, his consistent Masonic charity, and his exemplary course in all the relations of life, conciliated the respect and the love of all who knew him, throughout his long and useful career as a Mason and as a man.

Resolved, That as a feeble testimonial of our grief at his loss,

and respect for his memory, the hall of the Grand Chapter be draped in mourning for the space of six months.

Resolved, That the Grand Officers be a Committee, whose duty it shall be to communicate to the widow and family of the deceased, an expression of the condolence of this Grand Chapter with them on the occasion of this afflictive dispensation, and their and our irreparable earthly loss, and to furnish them with a copy of these resolutions.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, November 20th, A. D. 1865, A. I. 2395.

This being the meeting set apart for the election of Grand Officers, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest appointed Companions Jeremiah L. Hutchinson and Jacob Laudenslager, Tellers. The Grand Chapter proceeded to ballot, when the following named Companions were declared duly elected to their respective stations for the ensuing Masonic year, viz.:

Comp. SAMUEL C. PERKINS, . . . *M. E. Grand High Priest.*

(In place of Companion George W. Wood, who declined a re-election.)

“ GEORGE GRISCOM, . . . *M. E. Grand King.*

“ MICHAEL NISBET, . . . “ *Grand Scribe.*

“ PETER WILLIAMSON, . . . “ *Grand Treasurer.*

“ WILLIAM H. ADAMS, . . . “ *Grand Secretary.*

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, December 27th, A. D. 1865, A. I. 2395.

The following Report from the Grand Treasurer, Companion Williamson, was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee on Finance.

The Grand Treasurer reports that he has received, from December 29th, 1864, the date of his last report, to this date :

Balance in his hands January 1st, 1865,	.	.	.	\$378 67
Interest on City Loan,	.	.	.	\$57 00
Interest on U. S. Loan,	:	.	.	45 00
Premium on sale of Gold,	.	.	.	18 45
Warrants for Chapters,	.	.	.	48 00
			<hr/>	\$168 45
Dues, from Chapters and Mark Lodges,	.	.	.	1,235 95
			<hr/>	\$1,783 07
And he has paid orders drawn on him amounting to				775 23
			<hr/>	
Leaving a balance in his hands of	.	.	.	\$1,007 84
			<hr/>	

December 27th, 1865.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion George W. Wood, then delivered the following address :

COMPANIONS:—Previous to my retiring from the honorable position which, through your kindness, more than my own merits, I have occupied for the last two years, I desire to express to you my grateful acknowledgments for the confidence you have reposed in me; and in surrendering the emblems of office to my successor, I am certain I do so to one who is in every respect well qualified to receive them.

During the past year I have visited all the Chapters and Mark Lodges meeting in this hall, and find them all flourishing like the green bay tree, and the elected and subordinate officers desirous of performing their various duties in a proper and Masonic manner, according to the rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

The reports made to me by the District Deputy Grand High Priests throughout the State, I am pleased to inform you, are of the most flattering character, as to the condition of the Chapters in their several districts. They are all prosperous, and much interest is manifested in the work of the Royal Arch degree. Peace and harmony prevail.

Since our last annual meeting applications have been received for warrants for four new Chapters, which were referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act. The Grand Officers, in accordance with the duty assigned them, have granted warrants to Columbus Chapter, No. 200, at Columbus, Warren county, Pa.; also to Standing Stone Chapter, No. 201, at Huntingdon, Pa.; the two remaining applications, viz., from Honesdale and West Chester, are yet under consideration.

Before severing my official connection with you, I again desire to express my deep and grateful sense of obligation for the many acts of kindness received at your hands. May the Grand High Priest above so direct us in all our thoughts, words and actions, that when we are summoned to appear before him, we may be admitted within the Inner Vail, and recognized as of the true tribe, and no impostors.

All except Past High Priests having retired,
 Companion Samuel C. Perkins was then duly installed
 as M. E. Grand High Priest, after which he announced
 the following appointments:

Comp.	ALFRED R. POTTER, . . .	<i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i>
"	JAMES M. PORTER, Jr., . .	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
"	JOHN WILSON, Jr., . . .	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
"	JAMES W. VAN OSTEN, . .	<i>Grand Captain Third Vail.</i>
"	WILLIAM AUG. ATLEE, . .	<i>Grand Captain Second Vail.</i>
"	DAVID B. TAYLOR, . . .	<i>Grand Captain First Vail.</i>
"	EDWARD MASSON, . . .	<i>Grand Marshal.</i>
"	WILLIAM J. KELLY, . . .	<i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
"	CHARLES A. BANNVART, . .	<i>S. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
"	GEORGE J. BECKER, . . .	<i>J. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
"	WILLIAM B. SCHNIDER, . .	<i>Grand Tyler.</i>

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Reverend Companion	JOHN CHAMBERS,
"	"
"	JOSEPH J. ELSEGOOD,
"	"
"	DANIEL WASHBURN,
"	"
"	JOSEPH CASTLE,
"	"
"	JAMES MCGOWAN,
"	"
"	ROBERT H. PATTISON.

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. WILLIAM H. ALLEN,	Comp. CHARLES GILPIN,
Comp. J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON.	

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

Comp. WILLIAM H. ADAMS,	Comp. GEORGE H. ASHTON,
Comp. JOHN RUTHERFORD.	

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Comp. JOSEPH S. RILEY,	Comp. JAMES SIMPSON,
Comp. THOMAS D. WATTSON.	

COMMITTEE ON WORK.

Comp. JOSEPH S. RILEY, Comp. DANIEL THOMPSON,
“ DAVID C. SKERRETT, “ ROBERT FRAZER,
 Comp. JOHN THOMSON.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.

- 1—Companion CHARLES M. HOWELL,
of Lancaster, for the counties of Lancaster, York, and Adams.
- 2—Companion ROBERT L. MUENCH,
of Harrisburg, for the counties of Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, and Lebanon.
- 3—Companion JOSEPH L. STICHTER,
of Tamaqua, for the counties of Schuylkill and Berks.
- 4—Companion GEORGE SWEENEY,
of Easton, for the counties of Carbon and Northampton.
- 5—Companion E. P. KINGSBURY,
of Scranton, for the counties of Luzerne, Wyoming, and Susquehannah.
- 6—Companion ROBERT C. SIMPSON,
of Wellsboro', for the counties of Tioga and Bradford.
- 7—Companion JOHN K. ROBINS,
of Catawissa, for the counties of Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland.
- 8—Companion HARRISON T. BEARDSLEY,
of Lockhaven, for the counties of Clinton, Lycoming, and Centre.
- 9—Companion ALEXANDER M. LLOYD,
of Hollidaysburg, for the counties of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, and Mifflin.
- 10—Companion JAMES C. ACHESON,
of Washington, for the counties of Washington, Fayette, and Greene.
- 11—Companion THOMAS DAVAGE,
of Pittsburgh, for the counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Beaver, and Armstrong.
- 12—Companion WILLIAM F. OWEN,
of Conneautville, for the counties of Crawford and Erie.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, February 19, A. D. 1866, A. I. 2396.

Present :

Comp. SAMUEL C. PERKINS, . . .	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
“ GEORGE GRISCOM, . . .	“ <i>Grand King.</i>
“ MICHAEL NISBET, . . .	“ <i>Grand Scribe.</i>
“ PETER WILLIAMSON, . . .	“ <i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON, . . .	“ <i>Grand Secretary, p. t.</i>
“ J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON, . . .	<i>Asst. Grand Secretary.</i>
“ ALFRED R. POTTER, . . .	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
“ JOSEPH H. HEDGES, . . .	<i>Grand P. Sojourner.</i>
“ JOHN WILSON, JR., . . .	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
“ R. LLOYD LEE, . . .	<i>Grand Captain 3d Vail.</i>
“ THOMAS S. WOODBURY, . . .	<i>Grand Captain 2d Vail.</i>
“ DAVID B. TAYLOR, . . .	<i>Grand Captain 1st Vail.</i>
“ WILLIAM J. KELLY, . . .	<i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
“ EDWARD MASSON, . . .	<i>Grand Marshal.</i>
“ CHARLES A. BANNVART, . . .	<i>S. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
“ THOMAS JACOBS, . . .	<i>J. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
“ ROBERT H. PATTISON, . . .	<i>Grand Chaplain.</i>
“ JOSEPH S. RILEY, . . .	} <i>Past Grand High</i>
“ E. P. LESCURE, . . .	
“ JOHN C. SMITH, . . .	
“ GEORGE W. WOOD, . . .	

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest announced to the Grand Chapter the decease of our late Companion William H. Adams, Most Excellent Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, in a few pertinent remarks highly eulogistic of his character both as a man and a Mason.

The Most Excellent Grand King, Companion Griscom, also made a feeling address on the same sad event.

On motion it was

Resolved, That the three principal officers of the Grand Chapter be a committee to prepare and present resolutions expressive of the sense of the Grand Chapter on the demise of Companion Adams.

Companion Francis Funk moved—

That the Grand Chapter Room be draped in mourning for the space of six months, as a token of respect to the memory of Companion Adams; which motion was agreed to.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest announced that he had appointed Companion John Thomson Most Excellent Grand Secretary, until otherwise directed by the Grand Chapter: when, on motion, the appointment of Companion John Thomson as Grand Secretary *pro tem.* was confirmed by the Grand Chapter.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, May 21, A. D. 1866, A. I. 2396.

Companion George Griscom, Most Excellent Grand King, by request of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, having prepared, now offered a preamble and series of resolutions in relation to the decease of Companion William H. Adams, late Most Excellent Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter, after having addressed the Grand Chapter as follows:

To the

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

Officers and Members

of the Grand Chapter:

Called upon immediately to perform this duty, I cannot but feel the responsibility; and regret the inadequacy of my humble abilities, on so short notice and brief time for preparation, to present such a memorial as the wide-spread interest and solemn importance of the occasion demands for the record of this Grand Chapter.

At our last Quarterly Grand Communication, every Companion was impressed with profound grief by an event which was then announced to the Grand Chapter by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest. That event was the then recent decease of Companion William H. Adams, Most Excellent Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter.

This dispensation of Divine Providence was unexpected to the Craft, and came with a mournful weight upon our hearts; for to many of us, I believe, the announcement of his death was our first intelligence of the brief illness which it terminated.

The dark drapery with which this Chapter Hall is now festooned, is but a faint emblem of the sincere mourning which

pervades the heart of the whole Fraternity, among whom Companion Adams was a well-beloved as well as a highly-honored member.

On such an occasion it is impossible to express in words the full extent of our sorrow. Yet it is not only appropriate, but requisite, in response to the universal feeling in the Order, that this Grand Chapter should have placed on its records some memorial of its appreciation of the virtues, its gratitude for the services, and its grief for the loss of a Companion, so long and so faithfully one of its brightest members and highest officers.

William H. Adams was born in the city of Philadelphia, August 27th, 1809. He was the fifth son of William Adams, who was an active and zealous Mason, and who was successively a member of Lodges No. 72 and 114, in this city.

The Masonic record of William H. Adams begins in October, 1828, when he was initiated in Lafayette Lodge, No. 71, at Philadelphia, at the age of little over nineteen years. The inadvertency as to his age having been discovered soon after his initiation, that irregularity was cured; and he was, by dispensation from the Right Worshipful Grand Master, passed to Fellow Craft in November, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in December of the same year.

On the 6th of April, 1829, he was elected a member of Washington Lodge, No. 59, in which Lodge he successively filled all the offices, and took all the honors, from the place of Senior Deacon to the station of Worshipful Master, to which last he was elected and installed in December, 1832. He was elected Secretary of the Lodge 10th December, 1833, and filled that office by successive elections for the space of twenty-seven years.

He was recommended by his Lodge, in 1853, for appointment by the Right Worshipful Grand Master, as one of the Building Committee of the new hall. He was appointed an Almoner of the Grand Lodge Charity Fund; and he was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Lodge, December 13th, 1864.

He was Marked,—received and accepted Most Excellent Master,—and exalted to the supreme degree of Royal Arch Mason, in Jerusalem Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 3, at Philadelphia, on the 2d day of June, 1842. In December of the same year he was elected Scribe, in 1843 King, and in 1844 Most Excellent High Priest of that Chapter.

In December, 1848, he was elected Secretary of his Chapter, and this office he filled by continuous elections until 1864, when he resigned it. He was unanimously elected a life-member, and presented with an elegant service of silver by this Chapter, in testimony of his faithful and acceptable services.

He was for some years a member of St. John's Commandery, No. 4, Knights Templar, at Philadelphia. Not concurring in the movement which placed the Order in Pennsylvania under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Encampment of the United States, he at that time relinquished his active connection with Templar Masonry.

On the 6th of June, 1842, Brother Adams was appointed Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, by the Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Joseph R. Chandler, to fill the vacancy caused by the decease of Right Worshipful Brother Michael Nisbet; and at the annual election in December of the same year he was duly elected by the Grand Lodge to that office.

In the summer of 1842 Companion Adams was appointed by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion William Whitney, to the office of Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Most Excellent Companion Michael Nisbet; and at the annual election in November of the same year he was duly elected and installed in that station.

These two offices of Grand Secretary of the two Grand Masonic bodies of Pennsylvania he held by successive elections continuously thenceforward until his decease, a period of nearly twenty-four years.

His knowledge in all the important details of his high offices was thorough, and as perfect as the deficient condition of the ancient records would admit. His performance of their duties was always remarkable for accuracy, neatness, punctuality and skill. Combining rare firmness of character with a nature kind and gentle, his memory will ever be cherished with equal respect and affection by those who knew him best in his Masonic life.

In his social and domestic relations he carried out all the manly virtues which so brightly signalized and adorned his Masonic career.

His very nature was imbued with *charity* in the most exalted sense of the term. As a son, as a brother and friend, he was

ever dutiful, affectionate, forbearing and kind. Companion Adams never was married. He died on the 11th of February, 1866, in the fifty-seventh year of his age.

Companion Griscom then offered the following preamble and resolutions, which, on motion duly made and seconded, were unanimously adopted by the Grand Chapter, viz.:

WHEREAS, It has been the will of the Almighty to take from among us by death our beloved Companion, William H. Adams, for many years Most Excellent Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter, and it is proper and demanded, in response to the feelings of every member of the Craft within this jurisdiction, that an expression of regard for his memory should be suitably placed on our records; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter mourns the loss of Companion William H. Adams, and will ever cherish his memory for his rare personal virtues, his Masonic zeal and ability, and his unsullied character both as a man and a Mason.

Resolved, That the long and faithful services of Companion William H. Adams, as Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter, entitled him in life to our highest regard, and to a permanent expression of respect for his memory.

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter extend to the relatives and family of our deceased Companion, William H. Adams, our condolence and sincere sympathy in their affliction, and an expression of our sorrow at this irreparable bereavement.

Resolved, That these proceedings be entered, *in memoriam*, on the minutes of the Grand Chapter, and that the Most Excellent Grand Secretary, Companion John Thomson, be a Committee to present a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Past Grand High Priest, George W. Wood, asked for a decision as to the color of the jewels of Mark Lodges; when the Most Excellent Grand High Priest decided that they must be of silver, or white,—not gilt, or yellow.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, August 20, A. D. 1866, A. I. 2396.

The following report was read and accepted:

The Finance Committee report, that they have audited the account of Peter Williamson, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, and found the same very neatly and correctly kept.

The receipts and disbursements have been as follows:

RECEIPTS.

To Balance from last year,	\$378 67
“ Dues from various Chapters,	1,092 25
“ Dues from Mark Lodges,	143 70
“ Amount received for two Warrants,	48 00
“ Interest received, and premium on gold,	120 45
	<hr/>
	\$1,783 07

DISBURSEMENTS.

By cost of Printing,	\$204 73
“ “ Drapery,	149 00
“ “ Regalia,	31 50
“ “ Writing,	15 00
“ Grand Secretary's salary,	275 00
“ Grand Tyler's salary,	100 00
“ Balance due Grand Chapter,	1,007 84
	<hr/>
	\$1,783 07

By balance in the hands of Treasurer, Jan. 1st, 1866, \$1,007 84
All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH S. RILEY,
Chairman.

August 20th, 1866.

NOTE.—Total current receipts in 1865,	\$1,404 40
Total disbursements,	\$775 23
Receipts above disbursements,	629 17
	<hr/>
	\$1,404 40

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, November 19, A. D. 1866, A. I. 2396.

The Committee to whom had been referred the amendments to Article X. of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, made the following report, which was received, and the Committee discharged:

To the Most Excellent

*Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania,
and Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging:*

COMPANIONS:—We, your Committee, to whom were referred the amendments to the 10th Article of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, having carefully considered the subject, beg leave to recommend the following, as a substitute for said Article 10th of the Constitution, to wit:

ARTICLE X.

REVENUE OF THE GRAND CHAPTER.

The revenue of the Grand Chapter shall be derived from—

1st. Fees for Warrants to constitute Royal Arch Chapters, Most Excellent and Mark Masters' Lodges, as follows—all charges being therein included:

For Warrant to constitute a Royal Arch Chapter,	. . .	\$75 00
“ “ “ Most Excellent Masters' Lodge,	. . .	50 00
“ “ “ Mark Masters' Lodge,	. . .	50 00

2d. Dues to be annually paid on St. John the Evangelist's Day, by every Royal Arch Chapter and Most Excellent or Mark Masters' Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, as follows:

For each one made a Royal Arch Mason therein,	. . .	\$1 00
“ “ “ “ Most Excellent Master therein,	. . .	50
“ “ “ “ Mark Master therein,	. . .	50
“ “ Royal Arch Mason, a member thereof,	. . .	40
“ “ Most Excellent and Mark Master, members thereof,	. . .	40

Provided, That all Chapters and Most Excellent and Mark Masters' Lodges meeting more than ten miles distant from the city of Philadelphia shall have an allowance of *twenty-five per centum* upon the Annual Dues and Fees for conferring Degrees; *and provided also*, that no Chapter or Lodge shall be required to pay Annual Dues upon any one of its members for more than one Degree.

3d. For Grand Chapter Certificates, each, . . . \$2 00

No proposition to increase or diminish the Fees and Dues above established shall be received at any but a Stated Meeting, when it shall be forthwith communicated to every Chapter and Most Excellent and Mark Masters' Lodge under this jurisdiction, and shall be decided at the next Stated Meeting.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE W. WOOD,
J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON,
THOMAS C. WOODBURY,

Committee.

On motion, said substitute was ordered to be printed, and a copy furnished each Chapter and Mark Lodge under this jurisdiction, and the consideration postponed until February next.

Past Grand High Priest Wood asked for a decision on Sec. 9, Division F, Article XV. as to what constitutes "neglect."

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest decided: "That if the applicant was in the city, his not coming forward was neglect."

This being the time fixed by the Constitution for the election of Grand Officers, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest appointed Companions J. L. Hutchinson, Charles M. Howell, and Jacob Laudenslager, Tellers.

The Grand Chapter proceeded to ballot, when the following named Companions were declared duly elected to the several offices for the ensuing Masonic year, viz.:

Comp. SAMUEL C. PERKINS, . . .	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
“ GEORGE GRISCOM, . . .	“ <i>Grand King.</i>
“ MICHAEL NISBET, . . .	“ <i>Grand Scribe.</i>
“ PETER WILLIAMSON, . . .	“ <i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON, . . .	“ <i>Grand Secretary.</i>

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest stated that, at a meeting of the Grand Officers, held October 15th, he laid before them a communication from a Committee of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, extending an invitation to the Grand Chapter, and all Royal Arch Masons in this jurisdiction, to be present at the laying of the corner-stone of the new Masonic Temple, in Baltimore, on Tuesday, November 20th, A. L. 5866; and stated that, as the Grand Chapter would not meet until Monday, the 19th proximo, it seemed proper that some immediate action should be taken on the subject.

Whereupon the communication was read, and, having been considered, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted, viz.:

Whereas, It would afford the Grand Officers, on behalf of the Grand Chapter, great pleasure to accept the kind and fraternal invitation of our Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Maryland; but *whereas*, it is not in accordance with the customs and usages of Royal Arch Masonry, in this jurisdiction, for Royal Arch Masons to take part, as such, in any public ceremonies or processions; therefore,

Resolved, That the invitation be declined.

On motion of Companion Joseph S. Riley, the foregoing statement was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, December 27, A. D. 1866, A. I. 2396.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest delivered an interesting address to the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, giving a statement of the work done during the past year; which was received with marked attention by the Companions.

All having retired except Past High Priests, Past Grand High Priest Wood then took the Chair, when Companion Samuel C. Perkins was duly installed Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the Masonic year, commencing this day, and received the customary salutation.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then conferred the Degree of Past High Priest on Companion Henry A. Simms, Grand Scribe N. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, and first officer of Carleton Chapter, No. 16, C. R., Ottawa.

The Companions who had retired were then readmitted, when the following named Companions were duly installed in their respective offices, viz.:

Comp. GEORGE GRISCOM,	. . . . .	<i>M. E. Grand King.</i>
“ MICHAEL NISBET,	. . . . .	“ <i>Grand Scribe.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON,	. . . . .	“ <i>Grand Secretary.</i>

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest was then pleased to make the following appointments, viz.:

Comp. ALFRED R. POTTER,	. .	<i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i>
“ JOHN WILSON, JR.,	. .	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
“ ROBERT H. THOMAS,	. .	<i>Grand Royal Arch Captain.</i>
“ JAMES W. VAN OSTEN,	. .	<i>Grand Captain Third Vail.</i>
“ DAVID B. TAYLOR,	. . .	<i>Grand Captain Second Vail.</i>
“ GEORGE J. BECKER,	. .	<i>Grand Captain First Vail.</i>
“ EDWARD MASSON,	. . .	<i>Grand Marshal.</i>
“ JOHN L. YOUNG,	. . .	<i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
“ JOHN C. UHLE,	. . . .	<i>S. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
“ CHARLES E. MEYER,	. .	<i>J. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
“ WILLIAM B. SCHNIDER,	. .	<i>Grand Tyler.</i>

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Reverend Companion JOHN CHAMBERS,

“	“	JOSEPH J. ELSEGOOD,
“	“	DANIEL WASHBURNE,
“	“	JOSEPH CASTLE,
“	“	JAMES MCGOWAN,
“	“	ROBERT H. PATTISON.

COMMITTEE ON WORK.

Comp. JOSEPH S. RILEY,	Comp. DANIEL THOMPSON,
“ DAVID C. SKERRETT,	“ GEORGE W. WOOD,
Comp. ROBERT FRAZER.	

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Comp. JOSEPH S. RILEY,	Comp. JAMES SIMPSON,
Comp. THOMAS D. WATTSON.	

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. WILLIAM H. ALLEN,	Comp. CHARLES GILPIN,
Comp. J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON.	

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

Comp. JOHN THOMSON,	Comp. GEORGE H. ASHTON,
Comp. JOSEPH H. HEDGES.	

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD, Comp. PETER A. KEYSER,
Comp. HENRY J. WHITE.

COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

Comp. JEREMIAH L. HUTCHINSON, Comp. WILLIAM M. IRELAND,
Comp. ALEXANDER KIRKPATRICK.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.

- 1—Companion CHARLES M. HOWELL,
of Lancaster, for the counties of Lancaster, York, Adams, and Lebanon.
- 2—Companion ROBERT L. MUENCH,
of Harrisburg, for the counties of Dauphin, Cumberland, and Franklin.
- 3—Companion JOSEPH L. STICHTER,
of Reading, for the counties of Schuylkill and Berks.
- 4—Companion GEORGE SWEENY,
of Easton, for the counties of Carbon, Northampton, and Lehigh.
- 5—Companion E. P. KINGSBURY,
of Scranton, for the counties of Luzerne and Wayne.
- 6—Companion JOHN H. DUSENBURY,
of Great Bend, for the counties of Wyoming and Susquehannah.
- 7—Companion ROBERT C. SIMPSON,
of Wellsboro', for the counties of Tioga and Bradford.
- 8—Companion JOHN K. ROBINS,
of Catawissa, for the counties of Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland.
- 9—Companion HARRISON T. BEARDSLEY,
of Lock Haven, for the counties of Clinton, Lycoming, and Centre.
- 10—Companion ALEXANDER M. LLOYD,
of Hollidaysburg, for the counties of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, and Mifflin.
- 11—Companion JAMES C. ACHESON,
of Washington, for the counties of Washington, Fayette, and Green.
- 12—Companion THOMAS DAVAGE,
of Pittsburgh, for the counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Beaver, and Armstrong.
- 13—Companion SAMUEL B. DICK,
of Meadville, for the counties of Crawford, Venango, and Mercer.
- 14—Companion CHARLES L. WHEELER,
of Titusville, for the counties of Warren and Erie, and Chapter 207, at Titusville.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, February 18th, A. D. 1867, A. I. 2397.

The amendments to the Constitution, as per report of Committee, November 19th, 1866, and laid over to this meeting, were taken up, considered, and, on motions to that effect, were severally, and then jointly adopted.

On motion of Companion Joseph S. Riley, the Grand Secretary was directed to have the amendments, as adopted, printed and sent to each Chapter and Mark Lodge under this jurisdiction, and also to be placed in the copies of Constitution now on hand.

On motion of Companion George W. Wood, it was

Resolved, That the said amendments go into effect from the time of their adoption.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, May 20th, A. D. 1867, A. I. 2397.

The following communication from Mark Lodge, No. 214, in relation to the application of A. E. H——, for the Degree of Mark Master Mason therein, as a Sojourner, was read; and, on motion, it was decided that said Lodge have permission to take a second ballot in the case, on giving the usual notice:

GIRARD MARK LODGE, No. 214,

MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA.

STATED MEETING, APRIL 9, A. D. 1867, A. I. 2397.

To the

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

Officers and Members of the

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:

At a stated meeting of Mark Lodge, No. 214, held November 12th, 1866, a petition “for the Mark Master’s Degree, as a Sojourner,” was presented from A. E. H——, aged 34 years, of Lodge No. 25; occupation, *hotel-keeper*; residence, Bustleton, Twenty-third Ward.

The applicant was balloted for at the December meeting, and rejected.

At the meeting in January, 1867, a motion was made for a second ballot, which motion was adopted in February. In our notices of the stated meeting in March, there appears the name of A. E. H——, of Lodge No. 25, aged 34 years; occupation, *farmer*; residence, Bustleton, Twenty-second Ward.

The announcement for the second ballot was made from the printed notice, the petition not being in the Lodge at the time. At the request of the friends of the applicant, the Secretary had

(in the notices, and not on the petition itself) substituted the word *farmer* for *hotel-keeper*, and the ballot was taken without that change having been made known, either to the Worshipful Master or the Lodge. The change in the number of the Ward, from Twenty-third to Twenty-second, was accidental. The second ballot was in favor of the applicant.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest having decided "that in this case there have been such irregularities, that nothing further can be done without application to the Grand Chapter; the ballot for A. E. H——, *farmer*, being a nullity, and having no effect whatever, upon the petition of A. E. H——, *hotel-keeper* :—"

Our motion for a second ballot in the case of A. E. H——, *hotel-keeper*, having been adopted at the February meeting, and no such ballot having been had at the March meeting, as required by the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, (Art. XV., Sec. G, page 32,) we respectfully appeal to the Grand Chapter for instruction in the premises.

The foregoing statement and appeal were adopted at the stated meeting held this evening, and the Secretary was directed to communicate the same to the Grand Chapter.

The Lodge desires to take another ballot in the case.

(Attest,)

J. ATLEE WHITE,

Secretary.

The amendment offered by Companion Finley, November 20th, 1865, changing the time of meeting of the Grand Chapter from the first Monday to the second Thursday, was called up, and amended by striking out the word "second," and inserting the word "first;" which amendment as amended was agreed to, and the amendment as amended adopted.

NOTE.—Article IV. as amended reads thus:

The Grand Chapter shall hold Quarterly Communications on the first Thursday in February, May, August, and November, and a Grand Communication on St. John the Evangelist's Day, in every year.

The amendment offered by Past Grand High Priest Companion Daniel Thompson, at the last meeting of the Grand Chapter, viz.: "That the Jewels of Most Excellent and Mark Masters' Lodges shall be of the same form of those of a Master Mason's Lodge, but shall be of gold or gilt," was adopted.

The Committee on Appeals made the following report, which was received, and the resolutions attached thereto were, on motion, adopted:

To the

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

*Officers and Members of the
Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:*

In the matter of the appeal of Companion C. R. A——, of Keystone Chapter, No. 175, the Committee on Appeals respectfully report:

That they have had before them the appellant, and also the High Priest, and the Secretary of said Chapter, and heard their statements of the facts in controversy, and in which there is no variation, and are briefly as follows:

The appellant being in arrears for dues to his Chapter, the Secretary sent to him, with his monthly notice for the November meeting, dated November 12th, 1866, A. I. 2396,—the meeting to be held November 22d, at which time an election for Officers would take place,—a special notice in form customary with said Chapter, which reads as follows:

KEYSTONE HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER, No. 175.

COMPANION:—Action will be taken on your suspension at the next stated meeting, December 27th, in accordance with the by-laws, unless your arrearages are paid, or satisfactory excuse offered.

(Signed,)

ALFRED T. JONES,

Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, November 12th, A. I. 2396.

The appellant admits of having received his notice for the November meeting, with the amount of his dues.

At the stated meeting of Keystone Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 175, held on the evening of St. John's Day last, December 27th, 1866, the appellant was suspended for non-payment of dues; and he now appeals from the action of said Chapter, as irregular and void, not being in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, as set forth in Art. 15, Chapter H, Sec. 3d, as follows:

"The Secretary of each Chapter or Lodge shall annually, in his notice of the stated meeting second preceding St. John the Evangelist's Day, furnish to each member a statement of the amount due by him to the Chapter or Lodge respectively, up to said St. John's Day, inclusive, with notice, that if the same be not paid on or before the stated meeting next preceding St. John the Evangelist's Day, he may be suspended or expelled."

The law as laid down here is clear and specific, and both parties agreeing upon all the facts of the case as presented, enable your Committee to decide at once, that the action of Keystone Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 175, in suspending the appellant, was irregular, and not in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, and they offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That Keystone Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 175, erred in suspending Companion C. R. A——, and this Grand Chapter now declare said act null and void, and Companion C. R. A—— to be a member of said Chapter.

Resolved, That a copy of this report be sent to Keystone Chapter, No. 175, with instructions that the same be read in open Chapter, and engrossed upon the minutes of said Chapter.

GEORGE W. WOOD,

Chairman of Committee on Appeals.

May 15th, 1867.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest decided that, in all cases of rejection by a Mark Master's, or Most Excellent Lodge, or by a Chapter, the Secretary is required *forthwith* to notify the Grand Secretary of the fact of the rejection.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, August 1, A. D. 1867, A. I. 2397.

The following amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, offered by Companion John C. Uhle, May 20th, 1867, to strike out from Section 10, Letter G., Art. 15, the following words, was taken up, and on motion agreed to, viz.:

“No suspension or expulsion shall be valid until submitted to and confirmed by the Grand Chapter.”

The following report was read and accepted:

To the

Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of the

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:

The Committee on Finance report, that they have audited and settled the accounts of Peter Williamson, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, and they take great pleasure in stating that they have found his accounts correct, and very neatly kept, leaving a balance in his hands of eleven hundred and fifty-four dollars, twenty-eight cents, (\$1,154.28.)

RECEIPTS FOR 1866.

Dues from Chapters,	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$1,417 13
Dues from Mark Lodges,	.	.	.	.	.	.	474 00
Fees for warrants,	.	.	.	.	.	.	252 00
Interest and premium on investments,	.	.	.	.	.	.	187 05
							<hr/>
Current receipts for the year,	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$2,330 18
Balance from year 1865,	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,007 84
							<hr/>
Gross amount for the year,	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$3,338 02

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR.

Salary of the Grand Secretary,	\$ 210 00
“ “ Grand Tyler, &c.,	112 10
Carriages at funeral of Grand Secretary,	28 60
Upholsterer, to place the Chapter in mourning,	5 00
Printing for Grand Chapter,	30 50
Expended by Grand High Priest and Officers,	1,797 54
	<hr/>
Total expenditure for the current year,	\$2,183 74
By balance on hand in Treasury,	1,154 28
	<hr/>
	\$3,338 02
	<hr/>

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH S. RILEY,

Chairman.

July 31st, 1867, A. I. 2397.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, November 7, A. D. 1867, A. I. 2397.

This being the period fixed by the Constitution for the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing Masonic year, Companion Samuel C. Perkins, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, having declined a re-election, appointed Companions Joseph S. Riley, George W. Wood, and J. L. Hutchinson, Tellers.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to an election, and the Tellers reported that the following named Companions had been duly elected to the respective offices, viz. :

Comp.	GEORGE GRISCOM, . .	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
"	MICHAEL NISBET, . .	" <i>Grand King.</i>
"	CHARLES E. MEYER, .	" <i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	PETER WILLIAMSON, .	" <i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
"	JOHN THOMSON, . .	" <i>Grand Secretary.</i>

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, December 27th, A. D. 1867, A. I. 2397.

The following report was received, and the resolutions attached thereto were, on motion, adopted:

To the

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

Officers and Members of the

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:

The Committee on Work, to whom had been referred the amendments to the Constitution of this Grand Chapter, proposed by Companion R. Lloyd Lee, at the Communication held February 18th, 1867, viz.: To amend Article XV., Letter F, "On Admission of Members and Conferring Degrees," by striking out the words "Master Mason" in the third line of Section I., page 31, and inserting the words "Past Master, either by election or dispensation;" also to amend Section II. of same Article, by striking out all after the word "standing," respectfully report:

That the consideration of the subject-matter having been brought before them and fully discussed, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend the adoption of both the proposed amendments.

Resolved, That the Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

JOSEPH S. RILEY,

Chairman.

PHILADELPHIA, December 27, 1867.

Companion William H. Allen, Chairman of Committee of Correspondence, presented a report, which was ordered to be printed, and is as follows :

To the Most Excellent

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania :

Since our last report, three years since, the return of peace has enabled us to receive the fraternal greetings of many Grand Chapters which were then shut out from communication with us by the iron cordon of war. We welcome them to our tabernacles and our hearts with that warm Masonic sympathy which during four weary years of strife and blood we never ceased to feel. We have also the pleasure to congratulate our Companions of this jurisdiction and throughout the country, that the bitterness which marked too many of the published addresses and reports on correspondence, both North and South, during the war and immediately after its close, is giving place to kindlier sentiments. Masons of all geographical divisions and political creeds are realizing, as perhaps never before, that a fraternity which encircles the globe and embraces humanity, must not bound its affections by degrees of latitude or longitude, and that the charity which suffers long and is kind, and which thinketh no evil, is as truly a Masonic duty as that other kind of charity which raises a stricken brother from despair and soothes the cry of the orphan.

Your Committee have received copies of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter of the United States and of twenty-three State Grand Chapters, which we tabulate as follows :

<i>Chapters.</i>	<i>Grand High Priests.</i>	<i>Place of Convocation.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
G. G. Chapter, U. S...	Albert G. Mackey.....	Columbus, Ohio....	Sept., 1865
Alabama.....	J. B. Harrison..	Montgomery.....	Dec., 1866
Arkansas.....	L. E. Barber.....	Little Rock.....	Nov., 1865
“	“	“	“ 1866
Canada.....	T. Douglas Harrington..	Prescott.....	Aug., 1865
Florida.....	George F. Baltzell.....	Tallahassee.....	Jan., '63, 4, 5
Illinois.....	Hiram W. Hubbard.....	Springfield.....	Oct., 1864
“	Loyal L. Munn.....	Chicago.....	“ 1866
Indiana.....	Solomon D. Bayless.....	Indianapolis.....	May, 1865
“	Thomas Newby.....	“	“ 1867
Kansas.....	R. R. Rees.....	Leavenworth.....	Feb., 1866

<i>Chapters.</i>	<i>Grand High Priests.</i>	<i>Place of Convocation.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
Kentucky.....	William E. Robinson....	Louisville	Oct., 1865
Louisiana	Henry R. Swasey.....	New Orleans.....	Feb., '63, 4, 5
Maine.....	A. J. Fuller	Portland.....	May, 1865
Maryland and D. C....	John L. Yeates.....	Baltimore	Nov., 1864
“	“	Washington, D. C....	“ 1865
Massachusetts.....	Solon Thornton.....	Boston.....	'63, 4, 5
Michigan.....	Benjamin Porter	Detroit.....	Jan., 1865
Mississippi.....	George T. Stainback....	Jackson.....	“ 1866
“	William S. Patton	“	“ 1867
New Jersey.....	John Sheville.....	Trenton.....	Sept., 1864
“	Charles M. Zeh.....	“	“ 1865
New York.....	Darius A. Ogden.....	Albany.....	Feb., 1865
“	Horace S. Taylor.....	“	“ 1866, 7
North Carolina.....	George B. Waterhouse..	Wilmington.....	June, 1866
Oregon	C. H. Lewis	Portland.....	“ 1866
“	George A. Edes.....	“	“ 1867
Rhode Island.....	Nathan H. Gould.....	Providence.....	1863, 4, 5
Tennessee.....	John Frizzell.....	Nashville.....	Dec., 1866
Vermont.....	Gamaliel Washburn....	St. Albans.....	Oct., 1864
“	L. B. Englesby.....	Middlebury.....	“ 1865
Virginia.....	George W. Dame.....	Richmond.....	Dec., 1866
Wisconsin.....	Melvin L. Youngs.....	Milwaukee.....	Feb., 1865

Our correspondence indicates a high degree of prosperity and harmony in a large majority of the Grand Chapters in the United States. Never before, in the history of Capitular Masonry, have such multitudes sought and gained admittance to our sanctuaries; and if sufficient precaution has been used in the selection of the materials which have been offered, we have no fear that the beauty of our edifice will be marred, nor its strength diminished. We are not of the number of those who deprecate the extension of Masonry, for if we believe what we profess, that the institution is beneficial to mankind; that it is the friend of good morals and the handmaid of religion; that it promotes peace on earth and good will among men, we ought to greet with a hearty welcome all good men and true who seek to learn our mysteries, and are willing to practice the virtues which Masonry inculcates.

With a view to condense our report as much as possible, we have put some of the statistics of the Grand Chapters whose proceedings we have received, in the form of a table, showing the number of subordinate Chapters represented, the number which made returns, the exaltations, aggregate membership, and the names and places of residence of the Grand High Priests elected.

STATE.	Chapters Represented.	Chapters returned.	Exalted during year.	Number of members.	Grand High Priests elected.	RESIDENCE.
Alabama.....	48	68	298	2850	George D. Norris.....	Newmarket.
Arkansas	12	27	†	1382	Luke E. Barber.....	Little Rock.
Canada.....	16	23	†	846	T. D. Harrington.....	Ottawa.
Florida.....	5	8	†	389	George F. Baltzell....	Tallahassee.
Illinois	77	97	1106	4743	Olin H. Miner.....	Springfield.
Indiana.....	50	63	488	2282	Thomas Newby.....	Cambridge City.
Kansas	3	3	†	†	R. R. Rees.....	Leavenworth.
Kentucky.....	50	71	543	2053	Harry Hudson....	Louisville.
Louisiana.....	6	8	202	675	Henry R. Swasey.....	Delta.
Maine	17	17	266	1165	Andrew J. Fuller. ...	Bath.
Maryland & D. C.	8	10	184	713	James G. Smith.....	Washington.
Massachusetts....	34	34	*1017	3326	Richard Briggs.	Boston.
Michigan	32	36	545	2072	Ebenezer Sprague.....	Battle Creek.
Mississippi.....	55	84	346	3170	William D. Ferris ...	Deasonville.
New Jersey.....	12	13	187	547	J. C. G. Robinson....	Paterson.
New York.....	115	126	963	9490	Seymour H. Stone....	Syracuse.
North Carolina...	17	||20	159	960	Alfred Martin.....	Wilmington.
Oregon	5	6	16	149	George A. Edes.....	Salem.
Pennsylvania.....	22	§45	876	3780	George Griseom.....	Philadelphia.
Rhode Island.....	5	5	51	624	Thomas A. Doyle....	Providence.
Tennessee.....	40	53	†	†	J. S. Dawson.....	Paris.
Vermont.....	13	14	†	974	L. B. Englesby.....	Burlington.
Virginia.....	16	‡21	†	1536	George W. Dame.....	Danville.
Wisconsin.....	24	26	273	1129	Melvin L. Youngs....	Milwaukee.

* In two years. || Forty-two Chapters in the State. † Not reported.
‡ Thirty-eight Chapters in the State. § Fifty-six Chapters in the State.

The foregoing table shows that, exclusive of Canada, the aggregate membership of twenty-two Grand Jurisdictions, whose numbers are reported, is 44,009. But we have not been favored with the proceedings of the Grand Chapters of *Connecticut, California, Iowa, Georgia, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas*; and the Grand Chapters of Kansas and Tennessee have not reported the number of their members in the proceedings which we have received. We notice also that many subordinate Chapters made no returns, and that some of the reports from which our statistics are taken, were published two or three years since. In view of these facts, we believe that the number of affiliated Royal Arch Masons in the United States, at the present time, is not less than sixty thousand.

The Triennial Convocation of the *General Grand Chapter* of the United States appears to have been harmonious and its proceedings unimportant. Most Excellent General Grand High Priest John L. Lewis assures the Order "that the General Grand

Chapter has not been dissolved, and will not be in the coming time." We have no hostility to this body, and if by any means it can make itself useful by promoting harmony and prosperity in other jurisdictions, we bid it God-speed, while we pursue the same objects by our own methods, without any interference in the affairs of others, or permitting others to interfere with us.

The olive branch was extended to all Grand Chapters by the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions :

Resolved, That all Grand Chapters which have failed to meet in consequence of the recent war, are declared to be in good standing in this body, and entitled to continue their relation with it.

Resolved, That all the Grand Chapters in the United States of America, and in any Territory or District thereof, are hereby most cordially and fraternally invited to unite with this General Grand Body, as constituent members, without reference to past differences of any character, and are hereby most sincerely assured that they shall receive a fraternal, hearty and Royal Arch welcome.

Next Triennial Convocation at St. Louis, Missouri, third Tuesday of September, 1868.

The Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of *Alabama* decided that : 1st. A Chapter cannot adopt a by-law compelling the members to attend every regular Convocation ; 2d. A Chapter may adopt a by-law, declaring that any companion who shall be engaged in selling spirituous liquors is guilty of un-Masonic conduct ; 3d. A Master Mason who had been accepted for exaltation, but had lost an arm in battle before receiving the degrees, may nevertheless be exalted.

These decisions have not the force of law until approved by the Grand Chapter. Your Committee believe that the third decision is contrary to the usage in other jurisdictions.

Companion Daniel Sayre presented a report on correspondence, which was conceived in a better spirit than he indulged in a previous report. His opinion is decidedly opposed to that of the Grand High Priest on the question of exalting mutilated Masons. He also rebukes those companions who in too many instances have desecrated our peaceful tabernacles with sectional animosities.

The Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of *Arkansas* exhorts the subordinate Chapters to endeavor to elevate the standard of morals among their members, and laments the downward tendency of all classes.

He is very severe on non-affiliated Masons, who are useless to the Order and add no stone to the Masonic building. He thinks that the large number of this class originates in too great facility in passing from degree to degree, and from order to order, without any adequate knowledge of the work or its meaning. He suggests that inquiry should be made into the Masonic knowledge and education of candidates for advancement, as well as into their morals and general intelligence. None should be admitted to the higher orders except those who are industrious and zealous workmen in the lower.

The Grand Chapter of *Canada* congratulates the Order on "the restoration of peace in the United States, and a return to friendly relations, so long interrupted, between all our Brethren and Companions, citizens of that powerful and important Republic."

The report on correspondence by Companion James Seymour evinces a truly fraternal feeling towards the Grand Chapters and Companions in the United States.

We suggest to Companion Baltzell, of *Florida*, that Companions of the Royal Arch should cease to introduce political discussions into their Chapters. Let us do nothing to sow discord among brethren, nor fan again to a flame the embers of sectional hatred which still smoulder under deceitful ashes.

Military Chapters are in favor with the Grand High Priest of *Illinois*. He had visited several of these, and though he went strongly prejudiced against them, he was forced to the conclusion that the prosperity of the Royal Craft could be promoted in the armies of our country as well as in our peaceful and quiet retreats at home.

Your Committee dissent from this opinion, for three reasons : 1st. Because the working apparatus of a Chapter is too cumber-

some to an army moving from place to place; 2d. Because nearly all the benefits which Masonry can confer on soldiers in active service may be obtained in Military Lodges of Master Masons; 3d. And chiefly, because there is far greater danger of the admission of unworthy members than there is in a stationary community.

A question of jurisdiction has arisen between the Grand Chapter of *Indiana* and that of *Pennsylvania*. It appears that Royal Arch Chapter, No. 43, Lancaster, *Pennsylvania*, conferred the degrees on Isaac N. Holmes, a Past Master of Lodge No. 194, Laporte, *Indiana*, who was on a visit to a relative, a member of Chapter No. 43, and was desirous of receiving the Chapter degrees in Lancaster. Having sold his property in Laporte, Brother Holmes was uncertain whether he would return to *Indiana*, and being well known as a bright Master Mason, the degrees were conferred on him as a Sojourner. Subsequently Companion Holmes returned to *Indiana*, and the Grand Chapter of that State having taken umbrage at the action of Chapter No. 43, requested the Grand Chapter of *Pennsylvania* to repeal Art. 15, Letter F, Sec. 12, of the rules governing subordinates.

We have not heretofore acknowledged in *Pennsylvania* an exclusive limited jurisdiction in the exaltation of candidates. Under the circumstances we do not see that Chapter 43 was in fault. We have no positive rule forbidding the conferring of the Chapter degrees on sojourners from other States; but we are of opinion that the courtesy due to other jurisdictions, and the security of our Chapters against imposition, should cause the practice to be discontinued, except under certain limitations. As misunderstandings of a similar nature have frequently occurred in other jurisdictions, and are liable to occur again in our own, we shall ask leave to append to this report a resolution, which, if adopted, will probably prevent future complaints of this nature against us.

At its Convocation in 1866, the Grand Chapter of *Indiana* passed a resolution dissolving its connection with the General Grand Chapter of the United States; but on the earnest recommendation of the Grand High Priest this resolution was rescinded at the last Annual Convocation.

The organization of the Grand Chapter of *Kansas* was completed, and its first Convocation held February 26, 1866. We welcome the advent of our young sister in what we used to call the Far West, but which the map shows to be the centre and pivot of our wide domain. While she grows in stature, may she increase in grace and beauty, till in the dignity of mature womanhood "her children shall rise up and call her blessed."

The Grand High Priest of *Kentucky* refers to an effort then (1865) being made in the Masonic world to restore the fraternal regard which formerly existed between the various parts of our country, and particularly to an address made through the public prints by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He hopes that the Grand Chapter of Kentucky will aid in the great work of reconciliation. We shall propose a resolution that the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania will co-operate in this fraternal movement. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

On account of the disturbed condition of *Louisiana*, there was no quorum of the Grand Chapter in 1863 and 1864.

In 1865 nearly all the Chapters in the city of New Orleans were doing a fair amount of work, and harmony prevailed among them.

The Grand High Priest alludes in feeling terms to the decease of Companion John H. Holland, one of the fathers of Masonry in Louisiana for more than half a century.

The Royal Arch Masons of *Maine* mourn the decease of Companion Cyril Pearl, for many years Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, and a Masonic reviewer of marked ability. We deeply sympathize with our Companions of that flourishing jurisdiction in their loss of so excellent a man and Mason, and so eminent a Masonic writer. The last report on Correspondence shows that the mantle of Pearl has fallen upon a worthy successor.

The Grand High Priest commends the uniformity of the work in the subordinate Chapters, but observes a want of uniformity in the mode of doing it. Some of the Chapters open on the Royal Arch Degree, and suspend the work on that degree while doing the work of the lower degrees; while others open on the

Royal Arch, transact the business of the Chapter; then close the Royal Arch, and open on the degree which they intend to work. We believe that the latter is the uniform practice in Pennsylvania.

A special committee on this part of the address reported that it is inexpedient to restrict the Chapters to either mode, but recommend suspending the work on the Royal Arch and resuming it after the lower degree has been conferred. This report was approved.

We condense the following decisions from the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of *Maryland and District of Columbia*:

1. The Grand High Priest has no authority to suspend a by-law of a subordinate Chapter.

2. After a committee, to which charges against a member have been referred, has made its report, the committee cannot receive further testimony, but the Chapter may.

3. A member of a committee to investigate charges may testify as a witness.

4. A member of a Lodge whose charter has been revoked, cannot lawfully receive the Chapter degrees while his Lodge remains under suspension.

5. A Master Mason who has lost an arm cannot do the work of Capitular Masonry, and is therefore ineligible.

In regard to the second decision, we think that if new testimony is discovered before the committee has been discharged, their report should be recommitted, that the new testimony may be received and incorporated therein.

There is discord in this Grand Chapter in consequence of the formation of a separate Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia. It appears that three Royal Arch Chapters of the District, having failed to obtain the assent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia to a separation, called a convention for that purpose; Potomac Chapter, No. 8, of Georgetown, dissenting. The convention proceeded to take steps to organize a Grand Chapter in the District without first consulting and obtaining the permission of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

On the 12th of March, 1867, the Grand High Priest Companion James G. Smith issued an edict, suspending the charters of the three Chapters and their elected officers, with one exception, for contumacy and insubordination; and declaring any assembly of Royal Arch Masons, members of said Chapters, illegal and clandestine.

Subsequently, the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia assented to the separation, and the charters were restored.

All the Chapters in the District then chose delegates to a convention, which adopted a constitution and elected Grand Officers.

We next hear of a Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, for the purpose of again suspending the charters, on the ground that the convention had not obtained the consent of one of the first four General Grand Officers, and that therefore their action was illegal. But before the Grand Chapter convened, the General Grand High Priest was consulted as to the necessity of obtaining consent, and returned the following telegram:

“Consent probably unnecessary; granted if it is; will write.”
Dated, Pen Yan, May 13, 1867.

His letter of the same date is to the effect that if the charters of the District Chapters were derived from State authority, the consent of an officer of the General Grand Chapter is clearly not required.

When the Grand Chapter convened, and the telegram was read, the Grand High Priest withdrew his opposition, and a resolution was adopted “that the division is hereby declared to be complete.”

Potomac Chapter, No. 8, then requested to remain under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, which was refused.

On the 23d May the Grand Officers of the new Grand Chapter were installed by Companion A. G. Mackey, Past General Grand High Priest.

The next step in this singular history was the refusal of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, to accept a charter from the Grand Chapter of the District, or to recognize her as a legal Masonic body. Thereupon the new Grand Chapter declared Potomac Chapter

irregular and clandestine. Potomac Chapter appealed to the General Grand High Priest, who issued an edict sustaining its action, and authorizing the continuance of its labors as heretofore, under and by virtue of its warrant.

On May 24, 1867, the Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of the District published a Circular, a sealed copy of which was sent to the Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, of which the following is a copy :

To the

*Most Excellent the Grand High Priest,
the Grand Officers and Companions of the
Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter
of the State of Pennsylvania :*

We, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, and Companions of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia, with sincere respect and fraternal regards, send greeting :

The Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia, to the number of four Chapters, having united in the establishment of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the District of Columbia, in order to insure the rights and privileges which the growing interests of the Craft imperatively demand, and having duly and regularly installed their officers according to ancient usage, now respectfully and earnestly request from your Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter that fraternal recognition so eminently characteristic of the Holy Royal Arch. Engaged as we are in advancing the interests of Capitular Masonry, and disseminating light and truth to all who may come within our legitimate sphere ; and it being our sincere desire to establish a perpetual and intimate alliance with your Grand Chapter, we extend to you, in the name of our Divine Art, the right hand of Companionship, and confidently claim from you a reciprocation of our fraternal regards.

On behalf of the Grand Chapter.

[Signed]

J. E. F. HOLMEAD,

Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

NOBLE D. LARNER,

Grand Secretary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May* 24, 1867.

July 13, 1867, the General Grand High Priest declared and proclaimed "that the body claiming to be the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia has no legal existence, and is therefore irregular."

These statements are made on the authority of a pamphlet published by the Grand Chapter of the District, and addressed to all Companions, Royal Arch Masons, in the United States. It is entitled "Capitular Masonry in the District of Columbia; together with a short history of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and the official acts of the General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America in relation thereto." This document closes as follows :

Companions, we humbly submit to you, that in all our transactions relative to this matter we have acted fairly, calmly, dispassionately, and charitably toward all parties concerned. We first asked the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia for a separation. The Grand High Priest shut the door in our faces and would not listen to our request. We then assembled in Convention to consult as to what course was best to pursue. Upon being informed that the Grand High Priest had relented, we listened to his messenger, and at his request adjourned the Convention without action. We again asked their consent, which was cordially and unconditionally given. To us this seemed sufficient, as that was the only Masonic body on earth that had any right to interfere. But to satisfy those who thought differently, consent, as heretofore shown, was obtained from the General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. Having now performed every act and thing which we believed necessary to be done, according to well-established rules of Masonic Law on this subject, we must now rest content and await the result, having full confidence in that time-honored maxim, "*Magna est veritas et prevalebit.*"

We of Pennsylvania shall not "step aside to meddle with strife that belongs not to us," nor interfere in any way with disputes between the General Grand Chapter and the State Grand Chapters which acknowledge its jurisdiction and have sworn fealty to it. We are at present unprepared to form an opinion on the merits of the case, for we have heard but one side. The circular from which our information has been drawn is *ex parte*. The wise man said, "He that is first in his own cause seemeth just, but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him." *Audi alteram partem.*

We congratulate the Royal Craft on its condition in *Massachusetts*. The returns show a degree of prosperity not excelled in any jurisdiction. The Masons of that State have erected a new temple, which "for beauty and glory" surpasses that which

was consumed by fire in 1864; but they still mourn that there were treasures lost in the old which wealth cannot replace in the new.

Michigan sends us a report on correspondence which is a model of its kind, from the pen of Companion J. Eastman Johnson. He has "studied to exhibit in few words the actual condition of the craft; its attitude in the present exigency of our country; its attention to the cardinal Masonic virtues; its loyalty to Masonic law, and its progress in jurisprudence, as well as to maintain the affectionate and fraternal greetings which have united the craft in all ages before us."

Companion Johnson has correct notions of the duty of a Masonic reviewer. He is not of the class who form a sort of "mutual admiration society," and who mistake indiscriminate laudation for Masonic courtesy; nor of the censorious class, who are keen-eyed to discover a speck in every gem, who mistake fault-finding for criticism, and who "are nothing if not critical." He praises where merit deserves praise, and censures kindly when duty bids, but not merely for vain-glory, nor "to show his wrath and wit."

The financial condition of the Grand and Subordinate Chapters of *Mississippi* appears to be any thing but flourishing. During the last two years of the war Confederate money was received for dues and degrees, and the Confederacy having gone down, the money went with it, and left the coffers of the Chapters empty. Many of the subordinates are reported unable to meet their liabilities to the Grand Chapter.

The Grand High Priest alludes to the duty which the Grand Chapter owes to the many unfortunate ones recently thrown upon its sympathy and charity. He says, "The war has left the land full of widows and orphans."

We sincerely regret the difficulties under which our Companions in *Mississippi* are struggling. Their efforts to mitigate the distressing consequences of the late war, by relieving the widows and orphans of its victims, will be approved by every true Mason. The mission of our order is to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to minister to the afflicted, and to unite men in the bonds of charity and fraternity. As Masons we know

no sect, no party, no nation, no race, no creed. We are men, and whoever has the form and soul of a man is entitled to our sympathies.

New Jersey regrets the withdrawal of Companion William H. Jefferys from her jurisdiction, and from his "correspondence mill." We doubt not that his light will continue to shine, and his genial pen to write, in his new field of labor in Illinois.

If any proceedings of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey have crossed the Delaware during the last two years, we have not had the pleasure to receive them. We always read with interest the missives of our active and enterprising sister, and regret two vacancies on our files.

The Grand Chapter of *New York* reports unexampled prosperity in her imperial jurisdiction. The growth of the Chapters exceeds that of any former year. The Grand High Priest believes that the growth has been such as will add to the moral and intellectual strength of the Order, as well as to its numbers. He does not share in the fears of many worthy Companions, that the Chapters are doing too much work. He has witnessed too many benefits of Royal Arch Masonry not to desire its increase.

Companion John O. Cole, who had served as Grand Secretary for forty-two years, declined a re-election. The Grand Chapter passed resolutions expressive of their sense of his invaluable and faithful services, and appropriated to him five thousand dollars as a just compensation.

Companion Joseph White submitted an able and dignified report on correspondence. In his review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Michigan, which had passed a resolution that all High Priests elect shall be required to take the obligation of High Priesthood before entering upon their duties, Companion White observes :

This your committee believe to be eminently proper ; for as the *Grand High Priest must* be duly *qualified* before *he* can be installed, so your committee believe, that each High Priest elect of a subordinate Chapter should, in like manner, be duly qualified before installation. The contrary practice appears to have arisen from the inconvenience of obtaining a constitu-

tional, or even a necessary number in rural districts to perform that duty, and they were installed *pro forma*, but not *de jure*. Connected with this subject there is another matter which your committee think deserves consideration, viz. : the title of the presiding officer of a Council of High Priests. There is a fitness of things in titles as in other matters. In many councils he is styled "President." This we object to as not at all designating his true Masonic character. Let any one who has been made a High Priest trace the ceremonies step by step, to the completion and investiture, and it will be seen, we think, that a Council of High Priests is but an assemblage of those who, having been thus qualified to preside over Chapters themselves, have convened for the purpose of perfecting the election of the several subordinate Chapters, by giving instruction to their High Priests elect; and the Council has no other duties; they are part and parcel of the Grand Chapter, and not a distinct body. The Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter for the term of his office is, by virtue of that office, the High Priest of the Council, and needs no other title to designate his office or his duties. The fact of his asking another to assist in the duties of the Council, does not release him from the responsibilities of his station, or change his title.

The undersigned had occasion, some years since, to notice the relation of the Council of High Priests to the Chapters in Maryland and District of Columbia, where the Council of High Priests is an independent Order, not subject to the Constitution and regulations of the Grand Chapter. Nevertheless, that Grand Chapter had ordered that the High Priest elect of a Chapter shall be admitted to the High Priesthood before presiding over the Chapter which elected him; thus putting it in the power of a foreign body to defeat the will of the Chapter, and even to destroy the Chapter itself. We are of opinion that the above extract contains the true theory of the relation of the Council to the Chapter. "It is part and parcel of the Grand Chapter, not a distinct body."

We rejoice to receive fraternal greetings from our Companions in *North Carolina*, and cordially reciprocate them.

Companion Alfred Martin read an able report on correspondence, in which he admits the friendly tone and temper manifested, with few exceptions, by Royal Arch Masons in the Northern and Western States. He sharply contrasts their fraternal dispositions with "the passions and prejudices" which he erroneously attributes to the great masses of the people of those States. He thinks that the "few prominent Masons who cannot divest them-

selves of political and sectional prejudices, should be rebuked promptly and sternly in every instance, and by every Lodge and Chapter in the land."

We agree with our esteemed Companion in deprecating the introduction of partisan and sectional animosities into Masonic bodies, and therefore regret to find in another part of his report language which, if we mistake not, verges very closely upon the error which he censures in others.

While we do him the favor not to repeat his words, we assure him that the sentiments of a large majority of the Northern people of all classes are kind and placable towards the great masses of the Southern people. We submit that Companion Martin and the Grand Chapter which indorsed his report, erred in accepting the intemperate language of a few individuals and newspapers as an exponent of Northern feeling. We are willing to meet Southern Companions and people half way on the road to reconciliation; and we shall not hesitate to step beyond the middle line whenever we see them making some good progress on the other half.

In *Oregon* Royal Arch Masonry is not so prosperous as formerly. The Grand High Priest attributes this to the changing character of the population, the excitements of enterprise, and the eager pursuit of wealth which checks all other ambition.

In a former report we noticed that the Grand Chapter of *Rhode Island* had appointed a Committee on the Origin and History of the Four Degrees of Royal Arch Masonry. In 1865 Companion Lyman Klapp for the Committee made report as follows :

To the

Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter

of the State of Rhode Island :

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of the Chapter Degrees, after a careful examination of the main questions involved, and of the origin and history of said degrees, would respectfully report :

Your Committee have no doubt but that the best interests of Masonry would be promoted by the union of the Royal Arch and Master Degrees under one organization.

The important practical questions involved in so great a change, cannot be satisfactorily answered, until after a more general expression of opinion by the various Grand Chapters, Grand Lodges, and well-informed Masons of the country. We therefore deem further action on the part of this Grand Chapter, at the present time, inexpedient.

Respectfully submitted.

LYMAN KLAPP,
JAMES H. ARMINGTON,

Committee.

PROVIDENCE, *March* 8, 1864.

We confess that this report is not what we expected. It throws no light on the history of the Chapter Degrees as conferred in the United States. No action having been taken on the report, the Grand Chapter seems to have waived the whole question.

Your Committee believe that Ancient Craft Masonry included three degrees, and no more. The Royal Arch was a part of the Master's Degree. When or how the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master were invented and interposed between the Master and Royal Arch, we have not the data at hand to determine. When Companion Klapp invited the attention of the Masonic world to these questions in an elaborate address to the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, of which he was then Grand High Priest, and recommended the appointment of a committee to investigate them, we had reason to expect, that, as Chairman of that Committee, he would dispense Masonic light and knowledge on this subject by a thorough exposition of the questions involved. We are at a loss to conjecture his reasons for withholding the light and knowledge which we are assured that he possesses; but we know very well that want of ability was not one of them.

While we admit that symbolic Masonry has, at some time and in some manner, lost a portion of its ancient inheritance, we deem it unwise to disturb the existing organization and work of the Chapters in this country. The attempt would produce dissension and confusion, of which the present generation of Masons would not see the end. We know of no Statute of Limitations in Masonic law, but we presume that the claim of Blue Masonry to the Royal Arch Degree has lapsed by time, and that therefore the Chapters hold a good title to that degree by possession.

At a Special Convocation held August 15, 1865, it was proposed to amend the Constitution by striking out the word "Holy" from the title of the Grand Chapter. The resolution was referred to a committee to report at the next Annual Convocation.

We regret that no proceedings later than those of 1865 have reached us from our small but spirited sister.

Complaints were made of the frequent violation of the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of *Tennessee* by the Chapters of neighboring States, by exalting to the degree of Royal Arch Masons brethren residing in Tennessee. The subject was referred to a special committee, who reported resolutions instructing the Grand High Priest to call the attention of the Grand High Priests of the offending States to these violations of jurisdiction. We copy the last resolution :

Resolved, That after said correspondence is had, and one month intervenes, the subordinate Chapters within this jurisdiction are hereby required not to recognize any Mark, Past, and Most Excellent Master, or Royal Arch Mason, made after said time by said Chapters, in violation of our rights: *Provided*, however, brethren or companions thus wrongfully made or exalted, may be healed by any Chapter nearest their place of residence, upon the payment of the fees charged by the Chapter thus healing, if no objection is made to the moral character of the applicants.

One of the best reports on correspondence which we have had the pleasure of reading, was submitted by Companion Charles A. Fuller, Chairman of the Committee.

We have not received copies of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of *Vermont* for the past two years.

In *Virginia* seventeen Chapters have made no returns, some in five, six and seven years, and one in eleven years.

The report on correspondence is brief and pithy. It departs widely in form and substance from the usual track of reports of this kind. The "Lights and Shadows" of twenty-one Grand Chapters are represented on eight octavo pages, with as much distinctness as the artist's breadth of canvas would permit.

The following are the views of the Grand High Priest on the proper position of the Royal Arch Degree in the great fabric of Masonry :

We know that it was originally an *honorary* degree, conferred on those who had presided in the East in such a faithful manner as to entitle them to a mark of distinction as a reward ; and was conferred by the Past Masters of the Lodge on the recommendation of the Lodge. The Royal Arch was considered as the complement or completion of the Master's Degree, and was conferred on an investiture of *Truth*, in whose search the Mason spends his Masonic hours, and to the gain of which the whole science of Masonic Symbolism points. When by the action of the Dermott Grand Lodge, in 1740, the Royal Arch was separated from its former connection and made a distinct degree, it was still under the control of the Lodge, and its Master was, in theory, as he ever had been in practice, the presiding officer. And when Grand Chapters were formed about the first of this century in this country, I see no indication of any intention to remove this degree from its normal position as *honorary*, but only to give it more form, power and dignity. It is true, in order to keep alive and active the Chapters that had been formed, when Lodges were much scattered, and Past Masters, of course, very few, the Grand Lodge gave authority to the Grand Chapter to confer the Past Master Degree on those not justly entitled to it, in order to their exaltation ; but it is clear that it was done with the impression that none would be thus honored except "brethren who had distinguished themselves in Craft Masonry, not only by their learning and talent, but by their love of Masonry, their activity, generosity, liberality and sentiment."

The act of the Grand Lodge may have been wise and needful at the time ; but I believe the revocation of that liberty, long ere this day, would have been equally wise ; for the Body—which is, theoretically, one of intelligent, instructive, experienced and skilful Past Masters—now has a very large proportion of its members who cannot govern a Lodge, and do not govern their lusts, their habits, or their language ; who cannot instruct an Apprentice in the way to the Middle Chamber, and when tried by the Overseer's Square, are found unfit for use in the Masonic Temple, and fit only to be *hove over* amidst its rubbish. Hundreds of drones have been admitted into the hive. These sought the name of Royal Arch, supposing it would give them honor. But whilst they have gained no honor, they have lowered the name and detracted much from the character that justly belongs to it. The standard of Royal Arch Masonry is entirely too low. Justice demands that it should be raised, and that a strict discipline should be enforced in reference to the unworthy who are within, and a closer scrutiny exercised towards those who shall in future knock at its portal. None should be allowed to enter there who are not worthy, on account of their high moral character, their zeal for the Institution, their thorough knowledge of the whole Ritual of the Symbolic degrees, and their intelligence, to receive a special mark of honor.

We have nothing from *Wisconsin* later than 1865. The Chapters were at that time adding to their numbers as rapidly as could

be desired. Not a single note of discord marred the harmony of any one of them. The Grand High Priest visited seventeen Chapters during the year, and gave them instruction.

Companion H. L. Palmer, in his report on correspondence, refers to the question which had been introduced into the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, looking towards the abolition of the Chapter Degrees and a return to the ancient work of Craft Masonry, in the following terms :

As we are located so near to that locality which symbolizes Masonic darkness, we will not presume to possess the ability to enlighten our Eastern Companions on this interesting question, but we imagine it will require but little investigation to satisfy any one that the arrangement of Chapter Degrees worked in this country is an American innovation, and that our system embraces at least two degrees which, in their present form, are essentially an American manufacture ; that in the English system the Holy Royal Arch follows the Master Mason, the intermediate degrees not being known to, or recognized in their system ; and whatever we might think of the propriety of adopting our present system, were the questions now presented to our consideration as an original proposition, we do not hesitate to say that an attempt now to uproot it, and return to the English system, would "lead us into confusion worse confounded."

Your Committee have prepared this imperfect sketch of a few of the sayings and doings of our Companions in other jurisdictions, in the midst of interruptions by day and in hours stolen from repose at night. It has been our aim to note as briefly as possible the general spirit and progress of the Order, and to select from the great mass of materials in our hands such facts and sentiments as seemed to possess more than a local interest. No companion can be more sensible of our shortcomings than we are ; but if we have treated any Royal Arch Mason or Grand Chapter unjustly or unfairly, the error has not been intentional.

Capitular Masonry has been unusually prosperous throughout the country during the years which this report covers. Multitudes have passed through the vails into our inner sanctuaries to unite with us in the worship of the Ineffable Name. May they prove to be polished stones, fit for the Master's use, to add strength and beauty to the Grand Temple of Masonry on earth, and be found worthy, after they shall have passed through the sable vail which separates the seen and temporal from the unseen and eternal, to be built up in a house not made with hands.

Your Committee submit the following resolutions :

1. *Resolved*, That whenever a subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction shall receive a petition for the Chapter Degrees from a Master Mason hailing from another jurisdiction and sojourning in Pennsylvania, it shall be the duty of the High Priest of said Chapter, before referring such petition to a committee, to correspond with the High Priest of the Chapter nearest to the applicant's former place of residence, in order to ascertain his moral character and his standing as a Mason, and whether such Chapter claims jurisdiction over him; and in case of jurisdiction being claimed, the applicant shall not be balloted for until he shall have resided six months in this State.

2. *Resolved*, That the request of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, to receive the recognition and right hand of Companionship of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, be referred to the Grand Officers and Committee on Correspondence, to report at the next Quarterly Grand Communication.

3. *Resolved*, That the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania will unite with all Royal Arch Masons in other jurisdictions in cementing the bonds of Masonic union and charity between the Grand Chapters and Companions, and of friendship between the people of the two sections of our country which were recently at war with each other.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted.

WILLIAM H. ALLEN,

Chairman.

NOTE.—After the foregoing report had been written, the Committee received a copy of a circular entitled “Synopsis of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland and District of Columbia, so far as they relate to the so-called Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, at the Annual Convocation held in the City of Baltimore, November 11, 1867.”

This document presents the views of the other side in relation to the difficulties in the District of Columbia. As it came too late to be discussed in our report, we hand it over to our successors.

The Resolutions were, on motion, adopted.

So much of the minutes of the Quarterly Grand Communication, held November 7th last, as relates to the election of Grand Officers, were then read, and after an eloquent parting address by the retiring Most Excellent Grand High Priest,—

All having retired except Past High Priests, Companion George Griscom was duly installed Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the Masonic year, proclaimed as such, and received the customary salutation.

The Companions who had retired were then readmitted, and the following-named Companions were duly installed in their respective offices, viz.:

Comp. MICHAEL NISBET,	<i>M. E. Grand King.</i>
“ CHARLES E. MEYER,	“ <i>Grand Scribe.</i>
“ PETER WILLIAMSON,	“ <i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON,	“ <i>Grand Secretary.</i>

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion George Griscom, then delivered the following suitable address to the Grand Chapter:

Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests,

Officers and Members :

COMPANIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER:

We have emphatically cause to be thankful to the Grand High Priest above, who rules over all, for the pleasure and the benefit of another annual assembling and occasion for fraternal greetings, on this day kept sacred to Masonic observances.

Under an earnest zeal for the cause, and an ardent desire to contribute to the great work of advancement of the interests

of Royal Arch Masonry in our Commonwealth, I have accepted the high honor and important responsibilities of the supreme station to which the indulgent kindness of the Companions of this great Jurisdiction has promoted me.

As many of my Companions have been all along aware, my strength has not permitted of the performance personally of a large amount of work in the Order, since my election, four years since, to the station of Most Excellent Grand Scribe of this Grand Chapter.

Called originally to the station of an elected Grand Officer without seeking, and, I may say, without any anticipation on my own part of such an honor, continuous engagements in business affairs to which I was compelled, prevented my sharing in the labors of the Grand Officers through the various remote districts of our Jurisdiction during the last two years; while the remains of severe physical prostration, then still lingering, have, I fear, rendered inadequate my efforts to coöperate during my subordinate terms, with our distinguished Grand High Priests, their officers and my companions at home.

The administration of my immediate predecessor has been one of brilliant success and striking benefit to the Royal Craft in Pennsylvania. His farewell address has truthfully congratulated us on our excellent spirit of harmony, and a condition of prosperity and Masonic strength unprecedented in the history of our Order throughout this Jurisdiction.

The great ability and the successful administrations of my predecessors in this exalted station, will make the contrast striking, but I know, from the uniform kindness and forbearance of my companions hitherto manifested toward me, that I shall still have their indulgence, their fraternal feeling and their hearty coöperation, in my sincere and zealous efforts to continue the promotion of the best interests of the Royal art within our Jurisdiction. They will find in me an honest zeal and an unceasing desire for the promotion of true Masonic prosperity throughout our wide domain, and for the fraternal harmony, peace and happiness of every Chapter and every Companion.

Nothing that I could say on the general principles of Free Masonry would add to the oft-repeated addresses already received, setting forth its purity of religious faith, its beautiful and perfect

system of morals, its unexampled power in the preservation of harmony, the inculcation of charity in its noblest sense, and the promotion of all the virtues.

I come, therefore, at once to a brief expression of my view of the principles and course which should be followed in my administration: premising a few general propositions and a brief glance at our history as a fraternity of Royal Arch Masons in Pennsylvania.

The object of all true Masonic labor is not so much an increase of numbers and wealth, as, first, to establish and preserve purity of work; and, secondly, to promote harmony and fraternal feeling, relations and conduct, among the Craft.

Masonry is an institution for pleasant association and mutual sympathy and support. The Chapter or the Lodge is a refuge where the "good man and true" may always find relief and solace in the love of his brethren, from the thousand ills encountered in daily intercourse with the outside world.

Freemasonry accompanied the first Europeans to America, and our Order has been an institution in Pennsylvania from the earliest days of her history as a colony.

Royal Arch Masonry was practised in the several Lodges in Pennsylvania, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, as occasion arose for conferring that degree, without any separate organization in the form of Chapters, until some time in last century, prior to 1758, when Lodge No. 3, at Philadelphia, gave the material and the warrant of Constitution, under the sanction of the Right Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, to Jerusalem Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 3; being the first Royal Arch Chapter ever constituted on this continent.

The first attempt to form a Grand Chapter in this State was in 1795, under the warrants of Lodges No. 19, 52 and 67, by an irregular and unauthorized movement, under the direction of an unaffiliated stranger in our Jurisdiction; which attempt was promptly suppressed by the Grand Lodge.

At an adjourned Communication of the Right Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, held April 23d, 1795, it was unanimously *Resolved*, "That a *Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter* be opened, under the immediate sanction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania." The Grand Chapter thus authorized and then formed, continued under the Grand Lodge until January 5th, 1824,

when it adopted a Constitution, by which (with mutual consent) it was separated from the Grand Lodge. On the 23d December, 1828, the Grand Chapter adopted a code of rules and regulations additional to its then Constitution. On the 2d November, 1863, a revision of the Constitution, rules and regulations was adopted, which forms the present Constitution, rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

From the time that the first Chapter in Pennsylvania was formed under the charter of our good old Lodge No. 3, and gave rise to the first warrant of our Grand Chapter, in 1796, and to Pennsylvania the honor of constituting the first Grand Chapter in America, there has never been a period when the benefits of Royal Arch Masonry were so widely extended, and the interests of the Order so prosperous in this Jurisdiction, as the present.

I consider it the duty of the Grand High Priest, with his Grand Officers, to visit all the Chapters within his Jurisdiction, as far as shall be in his power.

These Grand Visitations, also, should be in as ample form as practicable, that the Grand Officers, by example of full Masonic observance, may encourage and promote among the subordinate Chapters, strict attention to our forms and ceremonies; which were not instituted by our forefathers for show, ostentation, or display, but for the real and substantial promotion of the great and sublime principles of the Order.

A decent and serious respect for, and a due observance of all our prescribed forms and ceremonials, is of vital importance to the real prosperity of every Chapter.

Let the preparation and location of the Chapter Hall be such as to secure the requisite retirement and secrecy and impossibility of outside interference or observation.

Let every part of the preparation and furniture of the room be in full compliance with the rules, regulations and principles of the Royal Craft, that the work shall go on with smoothness and harmony, and that the plumb, the level and the square may find it to be perfect, solid and pure, in its finish.

When the Chapter is at work, let every officer appear in his appropriate regalia, jewels and robes, (the colors and fashion of which are each and every one emblematic of great and all-important principles in the Order,) and let every Craftsman be properly clothed.

These preliminaries duly established and observed, the work of the Chapter (the all-important object on which its very life depends) will more naturally receive that serious and solemn attention to which it is entitled; and prosperity and strength, which come from diligence and honest zeal, will be sure to follow.

Purity of work and harmony of spirit constitute the very soul of the Order. The promotion of these in the spirit of fraternal affection, will ever be the chief end and object of my labor. The old-established Pennsylvania work must not be infringed on.

With all our numerical advancement, no acquisition to the real strength of the Craft in our State will result, without a jealous and determined guard at the doors of our sacred edifice. Promising as is our condition everywhere within our borders, and highly as Royal Arch Masonry is already prosperous as an institution in Pennsylvania, the good work is as yet, we might almost say, in its incipiency. Throughout almost every district of our Jurisdiction is felt the want of more complete instruction in the *work* of the Order.

With all fraternal regard and esteem for our Companions of other Jurisdictions, and respect for their systems however they may differ in unessential particulars from our own, let us keep the Pennsylvania work in that ancient purity which has given us our strength, and has so long commanded the respect of the whole Masonic world. As long as this is faithfully and determinedly adhered to, the career of our Order will be onward in advancement to that real Masonic strength which consists truly in example of moral purity and excellence, and works of manly goodness and exalted charity.

Let the work of Pennsylvania be uniform. In the accomplishment of this, the District Deputy Grand High Priests, and the High Priests, Masters and Officers of every Chapter, and Most Excellent and Mark Master's Lodge, are each and all fraternally requested and expected actively to join the Grand High Priest and his officers. The first step toward this end should be a thorough and familiar acquaintance with the details of the work, as it has been determined on and practised under the immediate supervision of the Grand High Priests and their Grand Officers.

The system, as laid down by the Committee on Work, in 1858, and tacitly sanctioned by this Grand Chapter, was that of the ancient work which had always prevailed in Pennsylvania, and

it must be strictly and faithfully adhered to. No material variation from it must be made, and no innovation on it will be sanctioned or allowed. It is the pure, simple and beautiful ancient Pennsylvania work; and it must, shall and will be adhered to and enforced in every Chapter, Most Excellent and Mark Lodge in this Jurisdiction, to the full extent of our best efforts and power.

That no one may complain of our determination to enforce this rule, it is my purpose to institute and keep in operation a system of instruction inaugurated during the administration of my immediate predecessor, the effects and benefits of which will be made to extend, equally as practicable, to all the Chapters throughout this Jurisdiction. To this end I shall expect my Companions, the elected and appointed Grand Officers, one and all, to join me in holding, regularly as practicable, stated informal meetings, at which practical exemplification and practice of the work of the Chapter and the Lodges will be the sole business.

In addition to this, I shall instruct and expect the Chapters of each and every one of the districts of the District Deputy Grand High Priests to institute a similar system, in which the work as laid down by the Grand Officers and the Committee on Work shall be the guide.

The District Deputy Grand High Priests will be expected to visit the Chapters of their districts at every possible opportunity, and see that the work is done in conformity with that laid down by the Grand Chapter, through the Committee on Work in 1858, and the Companions of Chester and Montgomery, which counties are included for the present in the Philadelphia District, are earnestly requested to avail themselves of the opportunities which their vicinity to Philadelphia gives them to acquire and practise the true work.

Every Chapter should see to it that its *records* are kept in strict conformity to the requisitions of the Constitution, rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter; so that its annual returns may be clear and correct, and a complete history of its labors from first organization down, may at all times be accessible for examination by the Grand Secretary and the inspection of the Grand High Priest and his officers.

Next to the purity and correctness of its work, I may perhaps

say, that this is the most important point in connection with its governmental polity, to be urged on the attention of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The importance of the observances I have adverted to was never more emphatic than at the present time.

Never since its institution in Pennsylvania was the condition of Royal Arch Masonry so interesting as at present. The Order has entered on a career of great and unprecedented prosperity, and is rapidly assuming the form of a power in the benign influences in the great commonwealth of Freemasonry throughout this vast nation.

Let us see to it, then, that our borders are kept free from innovation, and that both our Masonic work and our Masonic life shall be ever uncontaminated.

While our work is kept pure in its ancient Pennsylvania simplicity, let our hearts and minds be ever intent on the preservation of those principles of true and universal charity in its noble Masonic sense, of fraternal love, regard, kindness and forbearance with each other, and right and justice with all mankind, which are the foundation, the beauty and the strength, of our Institution.

The storms from without may then beat around our sacred Temple, but yet it will stand unharmed.

Had the children of Israel been true and steadfast to the moral principles and precepts delivered to them from the Eternal Source of all truth and righteousness, the destruction of their temples would not have occurred, and the doom which condemned them to be driven out from the promised land and scattered through the four quarters of the world, would not have been pronounced.

Our greatest danger is in what is usually called prosperity, and the accumulation of wealth. Let the anxiety to make members rapidly and add to the numbers in your Chapters be kept in prudent check. We are all members also of Lodges; and first let us look well to the character of the material that is brought up for our inspection to the South Gate of our Temple. Having once admitted it for the builder's use, let us watchfully take care that it is afterwards kept bright and undefaced, and when exaltation is asked for by the Craftsman to the Supreme Degree, let it be certain that he has unsullied the purity of

Masonic character which should have sanctioned his first admissions through the portals of Freemasonry.

This observance and these principles will never fail us. Without them disaster will inevitably result ; and although no human power can ever destroy our Order, yet its usefulness would be at least temporarily impaired, and in proportion to the height and brightness of our former glory would be the disgrace and mortification of our fall from it.

Therefore let me urgently repeat the exhortation which I make to the Companions of all the Chapters within our Jurisdiction, to look jealously to the enterings in of our sanctuary.

Let each and every Companion especially devote himself to an acquisition of a knowledge of the true work of the Order as it has been practised in Pennsylvania from immemorial times, and is now sanctioned by this Grand Chapter.

COMPANIONS : It is not the time nor the convenient occasion now for a formal eulogium, or an extended memoir of the life of our lamented Grand Tyler, Companion William B. Schneider, lately so unexpectedly removed by death from among us.

I take this opportunity, however, to recommend to the Grand Chapter, that a committee be appointed for the purpose of preparing a memorial expressive of the high estimation in which the life-long labor of usefulness of that well-beloved Companion was held by the craft. A sketch of the singular ability with which his important station in this Grand Chapter and among the whole Masonic body was administered by his ancestors and himself, through a continuous period, extending at his death to the fourth generation, and comprising more than three-quarters of a century, during which they faithfully watched and guarded the enterings in and the goings forth of our sanctuary, could not but be of high interest and instruction to us all.

My aspiration, in conclusion, is, that the blessing of Heaven may attend our endeavors, and yours, for the promotion of the purity of morals and the grandeur of benevolence and true charity which are the unselfish objects of our institution. And may the gracious favor of the Divine Ruler over all, our adorable and adored Grand High Priest in Heaven, to whom we ascribe all goodness, as well as all power, look down upon you with His favor, that you may ever work together, by all means, in that peace which He alone can always give.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then announced the appointments for the ensuing Masonic year, as follows:

Comp.	JOHN WILSON, JR.,	. .	<i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i>
"	DAVID B. TAYLOR,	. .	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
"	GEORGE J. BECKER,	. .	<i>Grand Royal Arch Captain.</i>
"	JOHN L. YOUNG,	. . .	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
"	JOHN C. UHLE,	. . .	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
"	WILLIAM J. KELLY,	. . .	<i>Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
"	EDWARD MASSON,	. . .	<i>Grand Marshal.</i>
"	THOMAS BROWN,	. . .	<i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
"	ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	. .	<i>S. G. Master of Ceremonies.</i>
"	JOHN S. STEVENS,	. .	<i>J. G. Master of Ceremonies.</i>
"	CHARLES SCHNIDER,	. .	<i>Grand Tyler.</i>

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Reverend Companion JOHN CHAMBERS,		
"	"	JOSEPH J. ELSEGOOD,
"	"	DANIEL WASHBURNE,
"	"	JOSEPH CASTLE,
"	"	JAMES MCGOWAN,
"	"	ROBERT H. PATTISON.

COMMITTEE ON WORK.

Comp.	JOSEPH S. RILEY,	Comp.	DANIEL THOMPSON,
"	DAVID C. SKERRETT, M. D.,	"	ROBERT FRAZER,
Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD.			

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Comp.	EDWARD P. LESCURE,	Comp.	THOMAS D. WATTSON,
"	JAMES SIMPSON,	"	ALPHONSO C. IRELAND,
Comp. CONRAD B. DAY.			

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp.	SAMUEL C. PERKINS,	Comp.	CHARLES GILPIN,
"	J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON,	"	LEMUEL STEVENS,
Comp. JAMES B. VAN OSTEN.			

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

Comp. JOHN THOMSON,	Comp. JOSEPH H. HEDGES,
“ GEORGE H. ASHTON,	“ JOHN KRICKBAUM,
Comp. R. LLOYD LEE.	

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD,	Comp. HENRY J. WHITE,
“ JOHN BEENKEN,	“ ALFRED T. JONES,
Comp. ALFRED R. POTTER.	

COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

Comp. JEREMIAH L. HUTCHINSON,	Comp. WILLIAM T. TAYLOR,
“ ALEXANDER KIRKPATRICK,	“ THOMAS STILLMAN,
Comp. JAMES W. VAN OSTEN.	

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.

- 1—Companion CHARLES M. HOWELL,
of Lancaster, for the counties of Lancaster, York, Dauphin, and Lebanon.
- 2—Companion ROBERT H. THOMAS,
of Mechanicsburg, for the counties of Cumberland, Franklin, Adams, and Perry.
- 3—Companion WASHINGTON REIFSNYDER,
of Ashland, for the counties of Schuylkill and Berks.
- 4—Companion EDWIN G. MARTIN, M. D.,
of Allentown, for the counties of Carbon, Northampton, and Lehigh.
- 5—Companion GEORGE PARTON,
of Scranton, for the counties of Luzerne, Wayne, Pike, and Monroe.
- 6—Companion JOHN H. DUSENBURY,
of Great Bend, for the counties of Wyoming, Susquehannah, and Sullivan.
- 7—Companion ROBERT C. SIMPSON,
of Wellsboro', for the counties of Tioga, Bradford, and Potter.

8—Companion JOHN K. ROBINS,

of Catawissa, for the counties of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union,
and Snyder.

9—Companion HARRISON T. BEARDSLEY,

of Lock Haven, for the counties of Lycoming, Clinton, Centre, Clearfield, and
Cameron.

10—Companion J. KING McLANAHAN,

of Hollidaysburg, for the counties of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Mifflin,
Juniata, Bedford, and Fulton.

11—Companion JAMES C. ACHESON,

of Washington, for the counties of Washington, Fayette, Green, and Somerset.

12—Companion THOMAS DAVAGE,

of Pittsburgh, for the counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Beaver, Armstrong,
Butler, and Indiana.

13—Companion WILLIAM C. HAY,

of Meadville, for the counties of Crawford, (except Chapter No. 207, at Titus-
ville,) Venango, Mercer, and Clarion.

14—Companion CHARLES L. WHEELER,

of Titusville, for the counties of Lawrence, Erie, Warren, McKean, Forest, Jeffer-
son, and Elk, and Chapter No. 207, at Titusville.

ADDRESSES

DELIVERED ON

SEVERAL OCCASIONS

BEFORE THE

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania,

AND VARIOUS

CHAPTERS AND MARK LODGES

UNDER ITS JURISDICTION,

BY

SAMUEL C. PERKINS,

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1865—1867.



ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Chapter

ON ST. JOHN'S DAY,

December 27th, A. D. 1865—A. I. 2395.

COMPANIONS :

The station of Most Excellent Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter, to which I have been elected by your unanimous suffrage, is one of grave responsibility. To the interests of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, the supervision and care of which are in great measure committed to my charge, I shall endeavor to be faithful. Without undertaking to lay down any definite plan, with promises for its fulfilment, which circumstances might interfere with and prevent, it may not be without advantage if we consider some general views and suggestions, having an important bearing upon my official intercourse with the several Chapters and Mark Lodges, and their officers and representatives.

There are in this jurisdiction forty subordinate Chapters and three Mark Lodges. Six of these Chapters and all the Mark Lodges are located in the city of Philadelphia. The remaining Chapters are held at different points throughout the State. If, during my term of office, it shall be in my power to visit, at least once, each of these subordinate bodies, I shall consider it no less a privilege than a duty so to do.

It is of special importance that we ever keep in view the principles of our institution, and endeavor to derive the full benefit and advantage of those moral lessons, which the solemn ceremonies of the Order are intended, and, if rightly heeded, well calculated to impress deeply on the mind.

The traditions of Masonry, which have been handed down through successive ages from a remote antiquity, and blend themselves with all our forms and ceremonies, relate to sacred things, which are to be ever treated with serious respect and

consideration. The forms and ceremonies in themselves become meaningless and without force, unless the “beautiful system of morality,” which is “veiled in their allegory,” is pondered and dwelt upon. A belief in God—the Supreme Architect of the Universe—our Creator, Preserver, and all-bountiful Benefactor—is insisted upon as an essential requisite in every one who would enter the temple of our mysteries. The altar of the one only living and true God is represented by the pedestal which is ever present, the central object, in all our Chapter and Lodge rooms. From the sacred volume, filled with the most precious truths and promises, which lies ever open upon the pedestal, the most sublime and beautiful portions of our varied and extensive ritual, and the purest principles of our morality, are derived. It is the best Masonic monitor; and he who familiarizes himself with the precepts of the Bible, and exemplifies them in his daily life, and in all his intercourse with his brethren, and who studies with devout interest the history of the dealings of the Creator with his creatures, cannot fail to be a better man, and a better and brighter Mason.

A subject in which the devout and contemplative mind may find occasion for the profoundest thought, is the history of that peculiar people, chosen of God, the children of Abraham, His friend; in and around and upon whose sacred City and splendid Temple, all the traditions of our fraternity circle and centre.

The Degree of Mark Master teaches the lessons of order, system and regularity in the discharge of all the duties of life, and the exercise of that charity which springs from an all-pervading love to God and to our fellow-men. Its traditions and ritual point to and exemplify the wise regulations established and ordained by our three Grand Masters, for the prevention of confusion, and the maintenance of discipline and order, among the vast multitude of workmen engaged in the erection of the great Temple at Jerusalem: while the lessons of charity, which are inculcated in this degree, should serve to divest the prejudices and enlarge the hearts of all who are admitted to its mysteries.

The Most Excellent Master's degree, referring to the solemn and imposing ceremonies which attended the laying of the cope-

stone and the completion of the Temple, enjoins, as one of the great duties incumbent upon its recipients, to dispense light and truth to the uninformed Mason. The sacred edifice is completed ; the last stone is securely placed in position ; the brethren who have faithfully labored in the mighty undertaking during seven long years, now lay aside their working tools, and assemble around the brazen scaffold, upon which our Grand Master, King Solomon, stands with outstretched hands, ready to kneel and invoke the Divine blessing ; the “meritorious and praiseworthy,” whose conduct has been such as to meet the approval of their fellows, and who have occupied the Oriental Chair in their subordinate assemblages, over which they have ruled by the free choice of their brethren, rejoice in their well-earned reward, and await in earnest expectation the higher honors of being received and accepted Most Excellent Masters.

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart ; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

With what emotions do these sublime strains of the Psalmist fill the heart of the devout workman, as, gazing upon the splendid edifice, illuminated and dazzling in the clear light of the noonday sun—the Temple of the living God—the resting-place of the Ark of the Covenant, he beholds the Grand Master, King Solomon, arrayed in royal robes, kneel before all the congregation of Israel, and pour out the earnest supplications of his inmost heart, in that sublime dedicatory prayer, for the blessing of the Almighty and his favor and protection to his people.

And now the prayer closes with the petition : “Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting-place, thou, and the ark of thy strength : let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed : remember the mercies of David thy servant.”

The answer is immediate ; the Divine Presence is manifested by a visible token to the eyes of that vast multitude. “The fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt-offering and

the sacrifices ; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house."

What wonder is it that, awed by the sight, the children of Israel "bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good ; for his mercy endureth forever."

Between the joyful and glad ceremonies of the Most Excellent Master's degree, and the solemn rites of the Royal Arch, a long period intervenes. During the reign of King Solomon, prosperity, splendor and magnificence characterized the administration of the Jewish government, and the city of Jerusalem was unrivalled. But the people forgot the LORD their God ; they disobeyed his commandments ; they profaned his Sabbaths ; they wandered off into idolatry ; the one only living and true God was neglected. At length the wrath of Jehovah reached its culminating point, when, in the reign of Zedekiah, the city of Jerusalem was captured by the hosts of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, the Temple of Solomon was destroyed, and the people were carried away captive into a strange and distant land.

The Degree of the Royal Arch, founded upon, and referring more especially to the events connected with the building of the second Temple, yet, in its forms and ceremonies, recapitulates the more prominent manifestations of the Deity to the children of Israel, in declaration of his sovereignty and supremacy.

The descendants of the Patriarch Jacob, oppressed, down-trodden and enslaved by the Egyptians, were so sunken, that their divinely-appointed deliverer, Moses himself, shrank from the mission to which he was called, without the positive and personal assurances of the presence and assistance of the Great I AM, in the visible and fearful manifestation of his power in a series of most wonderful and appalling miracles. The infinite JEHOVAH, with condescension towards the frailties and weakness of his creatures, vouchsafed to his appointed servant and minister his support and presence, his assistance and blessing—the visible proofs of his Omnipotence, Omniscience, and Omnipresence.

“I AM THAT I AM: Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” This declaration of the self-existent Supreme Lord and Almighty Ruler and Architect of the Universe was, as Moses feared, too infinite and sublime and exalted to be grasped by the feeble faith of the down-trodden and oppressed people to whom he was sent.

That they might “believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,” had appeared unto Moses; the great miracles of the hand made leprous, and again cleansed at once; the rod turned into a serpent; and the water made to become blood upon the dry land, were enacted.

And when, in after centuries, the captive Jews at Babylon, by virtue of the decree of Cyrus, King of Persia, set out on their return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and city, these ancient lessons in the history of their nation recurred to their humble and grateful hearts with redoubled force; and in faith and trust in the God of their fathers, and resting upon his guidance and protection, they pursued their toilsome journey over rough and rugged paths; and, amidst difficulties, and dangers, and opposition, persevered in their labors until the glory of the latter house equalled that of the former.

Let us, then, my Companions, when we enter the Chapter room and engage in the rites and ceremonies of the various Capitular Degrees, enter upon our labors with minds duly impressed with the sacred and solemn character of the legends, traditions and history which serve as their groundwork. Let us strive to realize and establish in our own minds a true and Masonic conception and appreciation of the lessons which they are meant to exemplify and inculcate. Let us endeavor to so perform our labors, that all who have the honorary Degree of Mark Master conferred upon them,—are received and accepted Most Excellent Masters,—and finally exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch, may have the lessons thereby taught deeply graven upon their minds, so that they shall be ever present to restrain, guide, and direct and influence them in all their ways.

Upon the mitre of the Grand High Priest,—upon the crown of

the Grand King,—upon the turban of the Grand Scribe,—and upon the mitres, crowns, and turbans of all the officers and members of the Grand and Subordinate Chapters, is inscribed “Holiness to the Lord.” May “Holiness to the Lord,” in a spirit of devout consecration to the service of the Most High God—the Mighty JEHOVAH—the Great I AM—be deep graven on our hearts, and be exemplified in all our intercourse. And, finally, my Companions, may we, one and all, after our labors in this earthly tabernacle are ended, be enabled to look back with the consciousness of having, through Divine guidance and assistance, been enabled in some degree to accomplish our allotted task, and receive the welcome, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” from the Supreme Grand High Priest, and enter into his rest forever.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Chapter

ON ST JOHN'S DAY,

December 27th, A. D., 1866—A. I. 2396.



COMPANIONS:

One year ago to-day, called by your unanimous vote to the office of Grand High Priest of this jurisdiction, I entered upon the duties of the station. That grave responsibilities necessarily would rest upon me I was well aware; but relying upon your kind indulgence, and invoking the aid of the great JEHOVAH, with a firm determination to spare no efforts to advance the cause of Royal Arch Masonry, I shrank not. To you, my Companions, Officers and Members of the Grand Chapter, and to all the Companions and Mark Masters throughout the jurisdiction with whom I have been brought in contact, it is but just that I should render hearty acknowledgment for the favor and support which my administration and measures have received at your hands. Especially to you, Most Excellent Grand King and Most Excellent Grand Scribe, is acknowledgment due for the coöperation, counsel and assistance you have so freely and efficiently rendered. To the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary I cannot but feel under obligation for their prompt and faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices, and for the valuable and timely aid and advice they have ever rendered me in my plans.

Early in the year we were deprived by the hand of death of the experience and Masonic judgment of the then Grand Secretary, Companion William H. Adams. It were unnecessary here, in view of the eloquent tribute to his excellencies which has been paid by the Grand King in the Grand Chapter, to dwell upon the loss which was sustained in the death of Companion Adams. The appointment made by the Grand High Priest of a temporary successor, has been unanimously endorsed by the Grand Chapter in their election of Companion John Thomson as Grand Secretary. To Companions Adams and Thomson both, do I feel grateful for the uniform courtesy and warm interest which has

marked my official intercourse with them. To the appointed Grand Officers, for the zeal and attention they have ever shown in the performance of their duties, and for their cheerful and prompt assistance upon all occasions, my thanks are rightly due ; more especially to such of these officers as resided in this city, it not being possible for those at a distance to give that attendance and time which they would doubtless have done had they been resident at the seat of the Grand Chapter. I cannot refrain from expressing to the Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests my appreciation of the uniform encouragement and countenance they have ever given me.

Above all, my Companions, are heartfelt and devout thanks due, not only from your Grand High Priest, but from the Grand Chapter as a collective representative body, to Him, without whose favor and blessing it were vain to look for prosperity and success, for the flourishing condition of Royal Arch Masonry throughout the jurisdiction, and for His protecting care and goodness in the preservation of the lives and healths of the Grand Officers, during the several journeys they have made in the discharge of their duties in different parts of the State.

It is proper and appropriate that at this time you should receive an account of the labors of the Grand Officers during the past year, and of the condition of the affairs of the Grand Chapter and of Royal Arch Masonry under its jurisdiction.

At the commencement of the present Masonic year there were on the Register of the Grand Chapter forty-two subordinate Chapters and three Mark Lodges. There have been constituted during the year thirteen new Chapters, eleven of which have been constituted by the Grand High Priest in person.

On the 26th of April I constituted Howell Chapter, No. 202, of Westchester, in the Hall at Philadelphia, and installed all the officers with the exception of the High Priest, who was detained by illness.

On Thursday, March 29th, accompanied by the Grand Scribe, Past Grand High Priests Barger, Thompson and Wood, and a number of the appointed Grand Officers, I left Philadelphia at

7½ o'clock in the morning for Allentown, where at 2 o'clock the same afternoon I constituted Allen Chapter, No. 203, installed all the officers, and delivered an address to the Companions of the new Chapter and many visiting Companions who were present from Easton and other Chapters. District Deputy Grand High Priest Sweeny, of Easton, assisted in the labors. After these ceremonies were concluded, the Mark Master's degree was conferred on three candidates by Past Grand High Priest Wood. In the evening the same three brethren were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters, and exalted to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Mason; Companion Wood conferring the Most Excellent Master's degree, and the Grand High Priest officiating as High Priest in the ceremony of exaltation.

The next morning the Mark degree was conferred on a large number of candidates by Companion William J. Kelly, the Grand Pursuivant, assisted by Companion Charles E. Meyer, of Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3, and the officers of the new Chapter.

This Chapter has added largely to its numbers, and it is believed that a careful selection has been exercised in the choice of new material. From all that I can learn the success of Allen Chapter, No. 203, is beyond question.

At noon we left for Reading, and at three in the afternoon attended a meeting of Reading Chapter, No. 152, and instructed the Companions in the Mark degree. At seven in the evening I paid a formal Grand Visitation to the Chapter, and delivered an address, after which the Most Excellent Master's degree was conferred by Past Grand High Priest Wood; and the brethren upon whom it had been conferred were exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch by the Grand High Priest. District Deputy Grand High Priest Stichter, of Reading, was present, and assisted in the ceremonies and work.

Both at Allentown and Reading the Grand Officers were received with the utmost cordiality and attention, and entertained with great hospitality, and the most earnest desire was shown to receive instruction and conform to the work as established by the Grand Chapter.

On Saturday, the 31st, we left Reading by the early morning train and returned to Philadelphia.

On Saturday, May 5th, accompanied by the Grand Scribe,

Past Grand High Priests Lescure and Thompson, and a number of the appointed Grand Officers, I left Philadelphia at 7½ o'clock in the morning for the purpose of constituting two new Chapters, and visiting those already in existence in the northeastern portion of the State. Notice had been given beforehand of this intended visit; and every arrangement to insure the most satisfactory results, and to provide for the comfort and convenience of the Grand Officers, had been made by District Deputy Grand High Priest Kingsbury, whose exertions in this behalf are entitled to special commendation, and by the Companions at the various places to be visited.

Reaching Scranton at four in the afternoon of the same day, we were met at the station and warmly greeted by Companion Kingsbury, Companion Stevens, the High Priest, and other Companions of Lackwanna Chapter, No. 185, who conducted us to the Wyoming House, where provision had been made for our accommodation.

On Monday, at 10 A. M., accompanied by Companion Stevens, Companion Wilson, High Priest elect of the new Chapter at Factoryville, and a number of Companions from Scranton, we proceeded by rail to Honesdale. Reaching Carbondale at noon, we were met by Companion Easter, King of Eureka Chapter, No. 179, Past High Priest Bergen, and other Companions of the same Chapter. After dining we continued our journey to Honesdale in the Directors' car of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company, courteously placed at our disposal by the Superintendent of the road. A number of the Companions of Eureka Chapter accompanied us from Carbondale.

At four in the afternoon we arrived at Honesdale, and soon after reaching the hotel were waited upon by Companions Grier and Turner, the High Priest and Scribe elect, and other Companions of the Chapter about to be constituted. At five we proceeded to the hall, where I constituted Anthony Wayne Chapter, No. 204, and installed the High Priest and Scribe. The Companion who had been selected for the office of King was unavoidably absent from the county, and there had been no election of Treasurer and Secretary.

In the evening the Mark Master's degree was conferred on three candidates by the Grand High Priest, and the same three brethren were afterwards received and accepted Most Excellent

Masters, the degree being conferred by Companion Edward Masson, the Grand Marshal. It was after 11 o'clock when the labors of the evening were completed.

At 7 o'clock the next morning (Tuesday, May 8th) we returned to Carbondale, accompanied by Companion Grier, High Priest of Chapter No. 204, and the three brethren upon whom the degrees of Mark and Most Excellent had been conferred the preceding evening. Reaching Carbondale at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, we proceeded at once to the hall, where I paid a Grand Visitation to Eureka Chapter, No. 179, and delivered an address, and immediately afterwards conferred the Royal Arch degree on the three Most Excellent Masters from Chapter No. 204. The attendance was not large, owing to the meeting being held in the day-time. The Companions of Eureka Chapter were greatly disappointed that we could not give them more time; but it was impracticable, in view of the definite plan which had been arranged for our visits to other places.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, accompanied by a number of the Companions from Carbondale, we returned to Scranton. In the evening I paid a Grand Visitation to Lackawanna Chapter, No. 185, and delivered an address. A goodly number of Companions were present, including some from Montrose, Carbondale, Wilkesbarre, Factoryville, Tunkhannock and Great Bend, and District Deputy Grand High Priest Robins from Catawissa. After the ceremonies of the Grand Visitation were concluded, I conferred the degree of High Priesthood on several Companions who were entitled to it, and afterwards conferred the Mark degree on two candidates. The labors of the evening having been finished, we were entertained with a collation provided by the Companions of Scranton.

The next morning (Wednesday) I spent some three hours at the hall, accompanied and assisted by the Grand Officers, giving familiar conversational instruction and information to a number of Companions, who attended for that purpose in accordance with a general invitation extended the evening before, and who exhibited a spirit of earnest and intelligent inquiry, and a zealous desire for accurate and reliable knowledge which was exceedingly gratifying.

In the afternoon, under the guidance of Companion Davis, the Scribe of Chapter 185, we were conducted to visit the coal

mines and various manufacturing establishments in and around Scranton.

In the evening we proceeded to the hall, where the Degree of Most Excellent Master was conferred upon four candidates by Companion Masson, and three of them were afterwards exalted by the Grand High Priest.

At 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock on the morning of Thursday, accompanied by District Deputy Grand High Priest Kingsbury, Companion Stevens, High Priest of Chapter No. 185, and a number of Companions from Scranton, Great Bend, Factoryville and Montrose, we left by railroad for Factoryville, which we reached after an hour's ride, and proceeded immediately to the hall, where I constituted Factoryville Chapter, No. 205, and installed all the officers.

This Chapter has done some work since, and though not as advantageously situated as could be desired, it is hoped that it may be sustained.

At 5 o'clock the same afternoon we left for Montrose, distant about three hours' ride, half of the time by rail and the balance by stage. Shortly after 9 o'clock I paid a Grand Visitation to Warren Chapter, No. 180, and delivered an address.

The next morning (Friday) was devoted to an informal meeting at the hall, with such of the Companions as could attend, for the purpose of giving them instruction in a familiar, conversational way, and answering such inquiries as they might wish to make. As at Scranton, the Grand Officers were highly gratified by the earnest and intelligent desire manifested to acquire a correct knowledge of the work.

In the afternoon I conferred the Mark degree upon one candidate; and in the evening three were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters, the degree being conferred by Companion Masson. The same three brethren were then exalted by the Grand High Priest to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch.

The labors of the evening having been finished, we were entertained with a bountiful supper provided by the Companions of Montrose.

It had been my intention to devote Friday to paying a Grand Visitation to Temple Chapter, No. 172, at Tunkhannock; but upon consultation with District Deputy Grand High Priest Kingsbury and Companion Smith, the High Priest of that

Chapter, I was satisfied but little practical good would be accomplished by it, and that our time could be more profitably spent by remaining at Montrose over Friday and exemplifying the work in the three degrees.

At 6 o'clock in the morning of Saturday, May 12th, we left Montrose, and passing through Scranton, where several of the Companions met us at the station to bid us farewell, reached Wilkesbarre at noon. Shortly after our arrival at the hotel, we were called upon by Companion Morgan, the High Priest, and Companion Dana, Secretary of Shekinah Chapter, No. 182. At four in the afternoon we proceeded to the hall and opened the Chapter. I conferred the Mark degree on one candidate; and after a short intermission, the Most Excellent Master's degree was conferred in the evening by Companion Masson on two candidates.

Immediately after the closing of the Most Excellent Master's Lodge, the Chapter was opened, and a Grand Visitation was paid, and an address was delivered by the Grand High Priest. Upon the conclusion of these ceremonies I exalted three brethren to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch, and then installed the High Priest and conferred the Degree of High Priesthood upon two of the former High Priests of the Chapter.

This Chapter has suffered much, owing to the absence of a number of its members in the service of their country during the war. The present Secretary, General E. L. Dana, was a distinguished officer. There was a great desire manifested by all the members to revive the interest in the Chapter, and to conform to all the requirements and work of the Grand Chapter.

The labors of the evening were not closed till after 11 o'clock, when we partook of an elegant entertainment provided by the members of Chapter No. 182. The brief hour before low twelve was passed in the pleasantest social intercourse.

On Monday morning, (May 14th,) at 6½ o'clock, we left for Philadelphia, via Northumberland, Sunbury and Harrisburg, and reaching the station in West Philadelphia at six in the afternoon, had barely time to prepare for the Grand Visitation at 8 o'clock to Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91.

In addition to the Grand Scribe and the two Past Grand High Priests already named, I was accompanied during the tour just described by Companions Wilson, Royal Arch Captain; McGowan,

Grand Chaplain; Becker, Senior Grand Master of Ceremonies; Masson, Grand Marshal; Meyer as Grand Pursuivant, whose service as organist was also of great value; and by Companion J. Alexander Simpson as Grand Secretary, who rendered invaluable aid in opening the Minute books of the new Chapters, and examining, correcting and reporting upon the records of the several Chapters visited. All the Companions who accompanied me were prompt, zealous, accurate and efficient in assisting in the exemplification of the work and in all the labors incident to the journey.

On Tuesday evening, May 29th, accompanied by the Grand King and Grand Scribe, Past Grand High Priests Lescure, Simpson, Baugh, Thompson and Wood, and several of the appointed Grand Officers and quite a number of Companions, members of the different Chapters meeting in the hall, I proceeded to Germantown and constituted Germantown Chapter, No. 208, and installed all the officers except the Scribe, who was unavoidably absent. A bountiful collation was provided by the Companions in the refreshment room adjoining the hall.

This Chapter, I am pleased to learn, has been active in its labors; and its increasing membership, in the selection of which due care seems to have been exercised, gives every promise of success and prosperity.

On Thursday, July 12th, at 10 o'clock A. M., accompanied by the Grand Scribe, Past Grand High Priests Simpson and Thompson, and a number of the appointed Grand Officers, I left Philadelphia for the purpose of constituting new Chapters at Mechanicsburg, Cumberland county, New Brighton, Beaver county, Titusville, Crawford county, and Great Bend, Susquehanna county, and visiting the Chapters at Pittsburg and in the northwestern portion of the State.

Through the courtesy of Thomas A. Scott, Esq., Vice-President, and Companion Edmund Smith, the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, a special car was placed at our disposal during our journey to Pittsburg, with the privilege of detaining it at any intermediate point where our duties might require us to stop. The extreme heat of the weather, which greatly added to the fatigue and exhaustion necessarily incident to our labors, rendered this courtesy the more grateful.

At Lancaster we were joined by District Deputy Grand High Priest Howell, and Companion Westhaeffer of Chapter No. 43, who accompanied us to Mechanicsburg and effectively assisted in our labors. Reaching Mechanicsburg at 2½ o'clock, we were met and received most cordially at the station by Companions R. H. Thomas, High Priest elect of the new Chapter, Seton, Erminger and others. At 8 o'clock in the evening we proceeded to the hall, where I constituted Samuel C. Perkins Chapter, No. 209, and installed all the officers. The furniture and regalia of the Chapter were new and complete.

On Friday, July 13th, some two or three hours in the morning were spent at the hall in familiar and conversational instruction to the Companions, and at 4½ o'clock in the afternoon the Grand High Priest conferred the Mark degree upon three candidates. In the evening the same three were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters, Companion Edward Masson conferring the degree; and the Grand High Priest subsequently exalted the same three brethren to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch. The labors of the evening having been concluded, the Grand Officers and visiting Companions were entertained with a neat collation provided by the members of Chapter No. 209. Nothing could exceed the hearty and cordial hospitality, attention, respect and courtesy which the Grand Officers received at the hands of the Companions of Mechanicsburg.

It is a pleasure to be able to report that this Chapter is increasing in numbers, with every prospect of a long and flourishing existence. The Companions hope, before many months, to meet in a new hall which is being erected for the express uses of the Blue Lodge and Chapter.

At 11½ o'clock on Saturday morning, July 14th, we left Mechanicsburg, the Companions assembling at the station to bid us farewell.

At Harrisburg we were joined by Companion J. Alexander Simpson as Grand Secretary, and left at 2 p. m. for Pittsburg, which place we reached at eleven that night, and were met at the station by Companion Eichbaum, Scribe of Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162. We had not been expected until two or three hours later, and the plans which had been made by the Companions of Pittsburg were consequently, much to our mutual disappointment and regret, disarranged. Every thing had been provided

for our comfort, however, and we were conducted to the Monongahela House, where ample accommodation had been secured for us.

The District Deputy Grand High Priest, Companion Thomas Davage, with Companion Campbell, called upon us the next morning. And it is but proper that the attention, courtesy and hospitality extended to us during our entire stay in Pittsburg by these Companions especially, together with Companion Eichbaum, should be here acknowledged.

At 7½ o'clock on the evening of Monday, July 16th, we proceeded to the hall, where I paid a Grand Visitation to Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162, and Duquesne Chapter, No. 193, jointly, and delivered an address. At 9 o'clock a special meeting of Duquesne Chapter was held, and the Mark Master's degree was conferred upon three candidates by Companion William J. Kelly, the Grand Pursuivant.

The morning of Tuesday, the 17th, was spent at the hall with a goodly number of the Companions, who showed an earnest and anxious desire to obtain and acquire all the knowledge and information possible, in regard to the correct working of Royal Arch Masonry as authorized by the Grand Chapter. The intelligence and zeal, and spirit of loyalty and allegiance to the Grand Chapter which was manifested, were exceedingly satisfactory to the Grand Officers.

In the evening, at a special meeting of Duquesne Chapter, the three brethren who had on the previous evening had the honorary Degree of Mark Master conferred upon them, were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters, (Companion Edward Mason, the Grand Marshal, conferring the degree,) and exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch by the Grand High Priest.

At 9 o'clock the next morning (Wednesday, July 18th) we took the cars for New Brighton, where we arrived at eleven the same morning, but saw nothing of any of the Companions of the new Chapter until towards evening. At 8 o'clock we proceeded to the hall, and I constituted Harmony Chapter, No. 206, and installed the High Priest, King and Scribe. District Deputy Grand High Priest Davage and a number of Companions from Pittsburg and Rochester were present. No furniture or regalia, with the exception of the three vails, had been provided by the new Chapter, and we were much embarrassed in our labors.

After the Chapter had been constituted, the Mark Master's degree was conferred upon four candidates by Companion William J. Kelly. It is with regret that I feel compelled to state that but little zeal and interest were manifested; and it is the conviction of the Grand Officers that an earnest and strong effort will be needed on the part of the Companions at New Brighton to establish and sustain their Chapter upon any thing like a firm and substantial footing. And it may be well here to state, once for all, that while every practicable means will be used by the Grand Officers and the Grand Chapter to instruct, encourage and build up the subordinate Chapters, yet that corresponding and coöperative efforts will be looked for on the part of the Chapters; and that upon failure to manifest that degree of zeal and effort necessary to maintain a Chapter, upon a footing which shall be creditable to the cause of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, there will be no hesitation in applying such remedies to correct the evil, as are provided by the Constitution and as the exigencies of any particular case may call for.

At 7 o'clock in the morning of Thursday, July 19th, we took the cars for Meadville. Arriving at Greenville, some thirty miles from Meadville, at 10 o'clock, we were agreeably surprised to be met by a committee from Solomon's Chapter, No. 191, consisting of Companions J. M. Dick, Church, Bain and others, with the Directors' car of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad in waiting for our accommodation. Although without personal acquaintance on either side, our reception was most cordial and fraternal; and during the hour of our detention at Greenville and the subsequent ride to Meadville, in the enjoyment of social intercourse and interchange of views and sentiments, we could not but feel that we were indeed brethren and companions united by no ordinary tie.

Upon our reaching Meadville at noon, a large number of Companions of Solomon's Chapter, and of the other Chapters in the neighborhood, met and greeted us in the warmest and most heartfelt manner. The most ample preparations had been made for our accommodation and comfort at the McHenry House, and it seemed that no exertions had been spared to show the appreciation, by the Companions, of the visit of the Grand Officers.

In the afternoon Companion S. B. Dick, High Priest of Solomon's Chapter, escorted us, during a drive in carriages kindly

provided by the Companions of Meadville, to the principal points of interest in the vicinity, including Allegheny College, where we were received by the president and professors, and afforded every facility for the examination of the very valuable cabinets and library of the institution.

In the evening we proceeded to the Hall, having been joined by District Deputy Grand High Priest Owen, of Conneautville; and I paid a Grand Visitation to Solomon's Chapter, No. 191, and delivered an address. A large number of Companions were in attendance, including some from Conneautville, Greenville, Columbus, Titusville, Girard, Franklin, and other places in the District.

Immediately after the close of the ceremonies of the Grand Visitation, I constituted, in the Hall of Solomon's Chapter, Aaron Chapter, No. 207, of Titusville, and installed the High Priest, King and Scribe; and conferred the Degree of High Priesthood on five Companions (including the High Priest of Aaron Chapter) of various Chapters who were in attendance and entitled to receive the same.

The entire morning of the following day (Friday, the 20th) was spent by the Grand Officers in personal, individual instruction of the different Companions who were in attendance, for the purpose of obtaining all the light possible, and desirous of profiting to the utmost from our visit. In the afternoon a special meeting of Aaron Chapter was held in the Hall of Solomon's Chapter, and the Degree of Mark Master was conferred upon four candidates by Companion William J. Kelly; six brethren were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters, Companion Edward Masson conferring the degree; and six were exalted by the Grand High Priest to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch. The labors of the evening having been concluded, shortly after nine o'clock, we sat down to an elegant and sumptuous dinner provided at the McHenry House by the Companions of Meadville, in honor of the Grand Officers and the visiting Companions.

The next morning (Saturday, the 21st) the Grand Officers spent over three hours in the hall, engaged in imparting instructions and explanations, and answering inquiries respecting the proper working of the forms and ceremonies. In the evening a special meeting of Solomon's Chapter was held at the Hall,

when two Mark Masters were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters, Companion Edward Masson conferring the degree ; and three brethren were exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch by the Grand High Priest.

On Sunday, the 22d, the Grand Officers in a body attended divine service at the Episcopal church.

At 1.30 on the morning of Monday we left Meadville for Great Bend, Susquehannah county. A number of the Companions were assembled at the station to bid us farewell.

It is an especially pleasant recollection of our visit to Meadville, that throughout the whole of our stay, not the slightest shadow of any feeling of jealousy between the different Chapters of the District was manifested. While it was a subject of mutual regret that it was not in the power of the Grand Officers to personally visit each Chapter, yet all frankly yielded to the necessity, and came to meet us at Meadville, full of an earnest, intelligent zeal and desire to learn practically and thoroughly all that was possible in the brief time at their and our disposal, and with the most cordial, fraternal and delightful emulation and generous rivalry as to who could best work and best agree. The Grand Officers, one and all, formed many warm and valuable personal friendships with the Companions whom it was their pleasure and good fortune to meet ; and left with a deep and lasting interest in the welfare and prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry in the Northwestern District of the State.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon of Monday (July 23d) we reached Great Bend, and were met at the station by Companion Dusenbury, the High Priest elect of the new Chapter, and others. In the evening we proceeded to the Hall, where I constituted Great Bend Chapter, No. 210, and installed all the officers. The next morning (Tuesday, the 24th) we spent at the Hall in familiar, personal instruction of a number of the Companions, and in answering their inquiries in reference to various matters relating to the forms and ceremonies, rules and regulations of Royal Arch Masonry. The same earnest desire to acquire correct knowledge, and wish and purpose to adhere to the work as authorized by the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, was manifest, as had been shown in the other places we had visited.

At four o'clock in the afternoon a special meeting of the new Chapter was held, and six candidates had the honorary Degree of

Mark Master conferred upon them, were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters, and exalted to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Mason; the three degrees being conferred respectively by Companions William J. Kelly, Edward Masson, and the Grand High Priest. The labors of the evening having been concluded, we were handsomely entertained with a supper provided by the Companions of the new Chapter.

It afforded us special gratification to meet at Great Bend Companion Past Grand High Priest Benjamin Parke, who had come some distance from his home for the purpose, and assisted in the labors of the occasion, and encouraged us by his presence and valuable counsel.

We left Great Bend early in the morning of Wednesday, (July 25th,) and stopping over one train at Factoryville, a special meeting of Chapter No. 205 was held, and the degrees of Mark Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch were conferred upon three candidates; Companion William J. Kelly taking the Master's chair in the Mark, Companion Edward Masson in the Most Excellent, and the Grand High Priest presiding as High Priest in the Royal Arch.

Leaving Factoryville at three in the afternoon, and passing through Scranton, where District Deputy Grand High Priest Kingsbury and Companion Stevens, High Priest of Chapter No. 185, met us for a few minutes interview, and urged our remaining over night, we continued as far as Belvidere, New Jersey, and the next morning (Thursday, the 26th) returned to Philadelphia. I was accompanied during the journey by Companions Wilson, Grand Royal Arch Captain; Masson, Grand Marshal; Kelly, Grand Pursuivant; Meyer as Organist, and J. Alexander Simpson as Grand Secretary, all of whom rendered active and valuable assistance in the purposes of the occasion.

On Wednesday, November 21st, accompanied by the Grand Scribe, Past Grand High Priests Wood and Thomson, and a number of the appointed Grand Officers, I left at nine in the evening for Lockhaven. Reaching that place at nine the next morning (Thursday, the 22d) we were met at the station by District Deputy Grand High Priest Beardsley, Companion Hering, High Priest of Lafayette Chapter, No. 163, and others, and

escorted to the Fallon House, where provision had been made for our accommodation.

In the evening a special meeting of the Chapter was held, a large number of Companions from Bellefonte, Williamsport, Jersey Shore and other towns in the neighboring counties being present. The degrees of Mark Master and Most Excellent Master were conferred on ten candidates, Companion William J. Kelly acting as Master of the Mark Lodge, and Companion Past Grand High Priest Wood as Master of the Most Excellent Master's Lodge. At the conclusion of our labors the Grand Officers and visiting Companions were entertained with a supper by the members of Chapter No. 163.

The next morning (Friday, the 23d) was spent at the hall in imparting instruction and information in a familiar conversational manner, and answering the inquiries of the Companions, who were present in a goodly number, and evinced a zealous and loyal desire to conform in all things to the requirements of the Grand Chapter, and seemed to consider it a privilege to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by our visit for acquiring correct knowledge.

At three in the afternoon I paid a Grand Visitation to the Chapter and delivered an address; and at the conclusion of these ceremonies I exalted six Most Excellent Masters to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch. I cannot refrain from special mention of the very perfect and thorough ventilation of the Lodge and Chapter room, a point which is worthy of the most careful consideration in the construction of rooms for Masonic purposes, and which in too many cases has been entirely overlooked or neglected.

At 10 o'clock in the evening we took the cars for Titusville. Reaching Corry at ten the next morning, (Saturday, November 24th,) we were met by a large delegation of the Companions from Titusville, who had come thus far to greet us and accompany us the rest of the way. A little before noon we arrived at Titusville, and were met at the station by Companion Charles L. Wheeler, High Priest of Aaron Chapter, No. 207, and a number of Companions, who escorted us to the Crittenden House, where every provision had been made for our accommodation and comfort.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon a special meeting of the Chapter

was held, and four candidates had the honorary Degree of Mark Master conferred upon them, and were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters; the Mark degree being conferred by Companion William J. Kelly, and the Most Excellent Master's degree by Past Grand High Priest Wood. In the evening the Grand High Priest exalted six Most Excellent Masters to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch.

Our labors having been finished, we sat down to an elegant and bountiful entertainment provided at the Crittenden House by the members of Aaron Chapter.

We were pleased to meet here a number of the Companions from Franklin and Greenville, who attended for the purpose of availing themselves to the utmost possible degree of the opportunity for instruction and acquiring knowledge. It was gratifying to find the new Chapter earnest and zealous, and accurate in its labors, and increasing in prosperity, careful in the selection of members, and with every prospect of becoming one of the brightest ornaments of Royal Arch Masonry in the jurisdiction.

On Wednesday morning (November 27th) at 11 o'clock we took the cars for Franklin, accompanied by several of the Companions of Aaron Chapter, and by the High Priest, King and Scribe elect of the new Chapter to be constituted at Franklin. Reaching this place about 6 o'clock in the evening, we found every care had been taken by the Companions to provide for our accommodation.

At 7½ o'clock we proceeded to the Hall, where I constituted Venango Chapter, No. 211, and installed all the officers. A large number of Companions were present, including District Deputy Grand High Priest Beardsley, from Lockhaven, and many from Meadville and other places. After constituting the Chapter, the companions conducted us to the hotel, where an elegant banquet had been prepared by them in honor of the Grand Officers.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday (the 27th) a special meeting of the new Chapter was held, and three candidates had the honorary Degree of Mark Master conferred upon them, and were received and accepted Most Excellent Masters, Companion William J. Kelly presiding as Worshipful Master of the Mark Lodge, and Companion Edward Masson in the Most Excellent Master's Lodge. In the evening the Chapter again met, and

three Most Excellent Masters were exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch by Past Grand High Priest Wood.

At half-past ten o'clock the next morning (Wednesday, the 28th) we took the cars for Greenville, stopping on our way for a few hours at Meadville, where we had the pleasure of meeting and receiving cordial greetings from a number of the Companions of Solomon's Chapter, No. 191. Reaching Greenville at six o'clock in the evening, we were met at the station by Companion Henry Austin, High Priest elect, and a number of the members of the new Chapter about to be constituted. At eight o'clock we proceeded to the Hall, where I constituted Mound Chapter, No. 212, and installed all the officers. A goodly number of Companions were present, including several from Franklin, Meadville and Titusville. After the labors of the evening were concluded, we sat down to a complimentary banquet provided by the Companions of the new Chapter.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of the next day (Thursday, the 29th) a special meeting of the Chapter was held, and six candidates received the degrees of Mark Master and Most Excellent Master, Companions William J. Kelly and Edward Masson presiding as Masters of the respective Lodges. In the evening the Chapter again met, and six Most Excellent Masters were exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch by Past Grand High Priest Wood.

Both of the new Chapters, Nos. 211 and 212, were fully provided with new and handsome regalia and furniture, and there is every reason to believe, from the zeal and intelligence of their officers and members, that they will be flourishing and prosperous, and reflect credit upon Royal Arch Masonry.

At two o'clock in the afternoon of Friday, (the 30th,) accompanied by quite a number of Companions from various places in the Northwestern District, we left for Philadelphia by the way of Pittsburg, and reached home without accident at half-past one o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, December 1st. I was accompanied upon this journey by Companions Taylor, Grand Captain of the First Vail, (who unfortunately was compelled, by indisposition, to leave us at Lock Haven, and return home,) Wilson, Grand Royal Arch Captain; Kelly, Grand Pursuivant, and Masson, Grand Marshal, and as far as Lock Haven by Companion Meyer, as Organist.

On the 3d of May, Standing Stone Chapter, No. 201, was constituted at Huntingdon by District Deputy Grand High Priest Lloyd; and on the 10th of the same month Columbus Chapter, No. 200, was constituted at Columbus, Warren county, by District Deputy Grand High Priest Owen.

In addition to labors of the Grand Officers in exemplifying the work, in constituting new Chapters and paying Grand Visitations in the course of the several journeys which have been mentioned, the Grand High Priest, accompanied by the other Grand Officers, during the months of April and May, paid a Grand Visitation to each of the six Chapters and three Mark Lodges in the city of Philadelphia, and on each occasion an address was delivered by the Grand High Priest. Upon four several occasions also, in different Chapters and Mark Lodges in this city, the Grand High Priest has personally conferred the Mark Master's degree, assisted by several of the Grand Officers, for the purpose of exemplifying the work. Frequent meetings of the Grand Officers have been held to practice the ritual, the endeavor being to acquire and maintain strictly the work as adopted by the Grand Chapter in 1858. In these meetings the Grand Officers have been greatly assisted by the constant presence and counsel of Past Grand High Priests Thomson and Wood.

I must again acknowledge the cheerful and faithful support and assistance I have received from the Grand Officers, both elective and appointed, without which it would have been impossible for me to carry out successfully the measures I deemed advisable to adopt for the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction; and in which measures I have had the most gratifying coöperation and countenance not only of the Grand Officers, but of the Past Grand High Priests, and generally of the Companions.

I have been thus minute and circumstantial, my Companions, in the narration of the labors which have been performed during the past year, because, though it is believed that all the measures which I have pursued are entirely within the provisions of the Constitution, yet the powers and privileges which I have exer-

cised have not been heretofore made use of to so large an extent, and because necessarily a large expenditure of the funds of the Grand Chapter has been involved. But I feel satisfied that no better investment could have been made, and that not only by the Grand Visitations, but by the instruction which has been imparted, and the exemplification of the work during our several journeys in the interior of the State, and by the opportunities of acquiring a personal knowledge of the situation and wants of the subordinate Chapters, and by the friendly intercourse of the Companions with their Grand Officers, the cause of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction has been advanced, and the attachment of the subordinate Chapters and Mark Lodges to the Grand Chapter has been greatly strengthened.

The subordinate Chapters outside of the city of Philadelphia knew little of the Grand Chapter, save in making their annual returns and paying their annual dues. They found it almost impracticable, although anxious and willing to conform to the requirements of the Grand Chapter, to obtain reliable and authoritative instruction in the work, and many irregularities had crept in from neighboring jurisdictions. It was my desire, in imparting instruction and exemplifying the work, to be able to do so in a thorough and satisfactory manner; and it was for this purpose that I have taken with me upon my journeys a sufficient number of the Grand Officers upon whom I could rely without fail for the correct performance of every detail, so that our beautiful and sublime ritual accurately and smoothly gone through with might have its proper effect and leave a lasting impression. The opportunities for individual, personal instruction were also thus greatly multiplied, and were availed of to the fullest extent. The effect, I doubt not, will be permanent, and our labors cannot fail to have a lasting influence for the prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry as practised under the authority of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

At the request of the members of Chapter No. 210 at Great Bend, I authorized Companion Edward Masson, the Grand Marshal, to visit them and instruct them in the several Capitular degrees. This he did, at their expense, in the early part of November, remaining with them some six days, during which time they gave themselves assiduously and almost exclusively to

the business of perfecting their acquirements in the work: the result of his visit, as officially reported to me, is that they are fully competent to confer all three degrees in a satisfactory and creditable manner. This Chapter, it is believed, cannot fail to flourish, increase and prosper.

During Companion Masson's visit to Great Bend, upon the invitation of the Companions of Warren Chapter, No. 180, he went over to Montrose and exemplified the work in all three degrees.

The finances of the Grand Chapter have been unusually prosperous.

The balance in the Treasurer's hands at the close of the last year was,	\$1,007 84
He has received since, for Warrants,	252 00
For dues and fees from Chapters and Mark Lodges,	1,891 18
For interest on investments and premium on gold,	187 00
Making a total of	<u>\$3,338 02</u>

During the same time he has paid on orders as follows :

Grand Secretary's salary and expenses,	210 00
“ Tyler's “ “	112 10
Expenses at funeral of Grand Secretary Adams,	33 60
Printing,	30 50
For expenses of the Grand High Priest	1,797 54
Making a total of	<u>\$2,183 74</u>
Leaving a balance in his hands of	<u>\$1,154 28</u>

The returns from the subordinate Chapters and Mark Lodges, for the past year, have not all yet been received, and I am consequently unable to state the present number of Royal Arch Masons in the jurisdiction. Some few of the Chapters have been derelict in making returns for the previous years. It is my intention, during the present year, to have these Chapters notified, and every effort made to close up all arrears.

And now, my Companions, again thanking you for the support, encouragement and assistance which I have received at your hands, I am about to enter upon another year of official duty. Believing that my course has met your approval, as manifested by my unanimous reëlection, I shall pursue the same measures so far as I may have opportunity, and shall spare no effort to advance the interests and increase the prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry throughout this jurisdiction, so that I may retire from office with your approval and that of my own conscience.

And may the presence and assistance of the infinite JEHOVAH, the great I AM, be ever vouchsafed to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, to their subordinate Chapters and Mark Lodges, to the Grand Officers, and to you, my beloved Companions.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Chapter

ON ST. JOHN'S DAY,

December 27th, A. D. 1867—A. I. 2397.

COMPANIONS:

Before finally laying aside the sceptre of the Grand High Priest, which office I have now held by your unanimous suffrage for two successive terms, I feel that the close of my official duties and responsibilities should not be permitted to pass without some remarks, naturally called forth by the sundering of those relations which to myself have been so pleasant, and which may, I trust, have not been without profit to the Grand Chapter.

Circumstances have prevented my carrying out the intentions entertained at the commencement of my second term of office, of continuing the Grand Visitations in the interior of the State, which, during the preceding year, had resulted in effects far beyond what had been hoped for in advancing the cause of Royal Arch Masonry in the jurisdiction. I had not considered it necessary or expedient to repeat the formal Grand Visitations to the Chapters and Mark Lodges meeting in this city; but I have, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, visited each of those subordinate bodies in the course of the past year.

There are now upon the register of the Grand Chapter sixty subordinate Chapters, (including three which have been constituted during the past year,) and three Mark Lodges. On the 17th January, 1867, Girard Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 213, was constituted at Girard, Erie county; and on the 29th July, Temple Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 215, at Erie, in the same county; both by District Deputy Grand High Priest Charles S. Wheeler; and on the 8th August, Plymouth Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 214, at Plymouth, Luzerne county, by District Deputy Grand High Priest E. P. Kingsbury. Chapter No. 170, at Newcastle, Lawrence county, was suspended November 16th,

1857. During the past year application was made to the Grand Chapter for a restoration of the Warrant of that Chapter. The application was referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act. Satisfactory returns for all the years during which the Chapter had omitted to make them having been received, together with arrears of dues to the Grand Chapter, the Grand Officers granted the application; and the Warrant having been lost, a certified copy thereof was issued, and the Chapter has resumed its labors, with a good prospect of success, if the Grand Chapter shall be able to extend to it that fostering care which its position, on the extreme western borders of the jurisdiction, peculiarly demands.

The Grand Secretary reports that no returns have been received for 1865 from Washington Chapter, No. 150, at Washington, Washington county; that the last return received from Temple Chapter, No. 172, at Tunkhannock, Wyoming county, is supposed to have been the return for 1857; that no return for 1866 has been received from Northumberland Chapter, No. 174, at Sunbury, Northumberland county; that the last return received from George Washington Chapter, No. 176, at Chambersburg, was for 1859; and it appears that in November, 1865, a letter was received from the High Priest of this Chapter by the Grand Secretary, stating that they had had no meeting for over two years, but were in hopes of shortly resuming their labors; that Shekinah Chapter, No. 182, at Wilkesbarre, had rendered no returns since 1860, but that this Chapter had labored under many disadvantages during the war, and were making efforts to bring up the returns; that no returns had ever been received from Chapter No. 184, at Kittanning, since its organization, in 1855; and that no returns for 1865 or 1866 had been received from Portage Chapter, No. 195, at Johnstown, nor any remittance since its organization, in 1859.

It seems desirable that the condition of these Chapters should receive the special consideration of the Grand Chapter, and that if possible they should make good their past deficiencies, and be encouraged to continue their existence; but if it should seem probable that they cannot hope to exist and flourish, the remedies prescribed by the Constitution should be enforced.

The finances of the Grand Chapter, it is a pleasure to report, are in a prosperous condition.

The balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer,	
at the close of the preceding year, was	\$1,154 28
He has received since, for Warrants,	174 00
For dues and fees from Chapters and Mark Lodges,	2,321 12
For interest on investments and premium on gold,	180 29
	<hr/>
Making a total of	\$3,828 69
	<hr/>

During the same time he has paid on orders, and by direction of the Grand Chapter, as follows :

Grand Secretary's salary and expenses,	\$573 75
Grand Tyler's salary,	102 50
Grand secretary's Assistants,	150 00
Regalia,	38 00
Printing and stationery,	82 50
Investments,	1,000 00
	<hr/>
Making a total of	\$1,946 75
	<hr/>
And leaving a balance in his hands of	\$1,882 04

Besides which, the Grand Chapter holds the following investments :

U. S. 6 per cent. bonds of 1881,	\$1,500 00
Masonic loan,	1,000 00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$2,500 00
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I would suggest that it might be well, in view of the large balance in the Treasury, for a further investment of \$1,000 to be made in the new Masonic loan of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge.

At the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, held this morning, the Finance Committee were authorized to confer and arrange with the officers of the Grand Chapter, in reference to the pay-

ment of rent by the Grand Chapter for this Hall. The Grand Lodge has dealt liberally with the Grand Chapter, in the fitting up and furnishing and alterations of this room, with the necessary ante-rooms, for the purposes of Royal Arch Masonry. The Grand Chapter has occupied them without rent for some ten years past; her finances are flourishing, and she is abundantly able to pay a reasonable rent for the few nights in the year the rooms are occupied for her special purposes. The Grand Lodge is about to erect a new and splendid Temple, in which the most ample and satisfactory arrangements have been introduced for all the wants of Royal Arch Masonry; and it seems reasonable and proper, in view of all the circumstances, that the Grand Chapter should cheerfully yield to the expressed intimation on the part of the Grand Lodge, and henceforth aid her finances by the payment of rent for the Chapter Hall.

In July, with a view to the instruction of the members of some of the Chapters in the interior of the State, by whom a desire for the same had been intimated to me, I gave a special authority to Companion Edward Masson to visit them for that purpose. This he did at the expense of the several chapters, visiting Lafayette Chapter, No. 162, at Lockhaven; Shekinah Chapter, No. 182, at Wilkesbarre, and Lackawanna Chapter, No. 185, at Scranton. From the return made by Companion Masson of the result of his visits, I am satisfied that much good was accomplished. He exemplified the work in Chapters No. 162 and 185, and imparted instruction to the officers and members of the three Chapters.

Companion Masson, with my sanction, has also visited other Chapters in the State, and assisted them in obtaining accurately the correct work, as approved by the Grand Chapter; and I take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging the valuable services rendered by Companion Masson, who, from his practical familiarity with, and ability to exemplify, each of the degrees of Capitular Masonry, in all their detail, and from his zeal and devotion in all that concerns the welfare of the craft, and his intelligent appreciation of Masonry as practised in this jurisdiction, has been peculiarly fitted for the trust confided in him, and of great service in advancing the true interests of Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania.

It has been my privilege to express my views on Royal Arch Masonry so frequently in addresses delivered in this Hall, and in various Chapter Halls throughout the State, that it seems unnecessary at this time to enter upon any discussion of the views and principles which should be cherished by this branch of our fraternity. The sceptre of the Grand High Priest is to pass into able hands, and I would bespeak for my successor the same kindness and respect which has ever been extended to myself; feeling sure, that, with your united and cordial support, his administration cannot fail to result in the increased prosperity, harmony and strength of this Grand Chapter and of Royal Arch Masonry.

We have within a few days been called upon to part with the Grand Tyler of this Grand Chapter, Companion William B. Schnider, who had so long, so faithfully, and so usefully given his attention to the duties of that office. The hand of death was laid upon him, and he has been suddenly removed from the midst of us. In view of his worth, merit and services, I would suggest that his salary to the close of the year be paid to his legal representatives, and that the Grand Chapter make a special appropriation of say \$200, to be paid to his widow.

And now, my Companions, I have rendered you an account of my stewardship. Its duties and responsibilities, which you, with such entire unanimity, have for two successive years intrusted to my care as your Grand High Priest, have not been light. Its honors, conferred in the manner they have been, I trust have been duly appreciated. To the end of my life I shall ever retain a grateful recollection of your kindness, forbearance and confidence, and of the pleasant and harmonious character of my intercourse with the craft throughout this large jurisdiction. I can have no regret, save that I have not been able to accomplish all that I had hoped for or planned, for the advancement of the interests of this Grand Chapter and of Royal Arch Masonry. What it has been permitted me to do has been done willingly and cheerfully, and, as I know my own heart, with a sincere and earnest desire and purpose for the welfare and prosperity of Capitular Masonry in Pennsylvania,—for the unity,

harmony and true and real Companionship of Royal Arch Masons within the bounds of the State.

It would be neither just to my own feelings, nor to the Grand Officers with whom it has been my pleasure to be associated, were I to omit mention, in some measure, of what, with all sincerity, I feel and can say is due to them. Our official and personal relations have been of the most harmonious and fraternal character. They have ever been ready to afford me their counsel and their personal assistance in all my labors. We have been united in our views; and while our labors have been at times arduous and involving no little sacrifice of time and attention, yet we have been strengthened and encouraged by each other's countenance and assistance, and by the feeling that we all had the same object in view. As the pleasant memories of the many hours we have been thrown together, sometimes for days together, in most intimate society, in the course of Grand Visitations and other occasions, come up to my mind, I cannot but rejoice, while regretting the severing of our official relations, that there exists nothing to dim the brightness of those memories; and express the hope and desire that our personal intercourse may be for many, many years, uninterrupted, and as pleasant and harmonious in the future as it has been in the past.

My official and personal relations with the members of the Grand Chapter and with Royal Arch Masons throughout the jurisdiction, wherever it has been my good fortune to meet them, have been of the most kindly and pleasant character. I shall ever cherish a warm interest in all that can affect the welfare of this Grand Chapter and of Royal Arch Masonry. And in now parting with you, my Companions, as your Grand High Priest, I may be permitted to close with the expression of the hope that "Holiness to the Lord" may be in all our thoughts, words and actions; and with the earnest prayer for your welfare: "The Lord of peace himself give you peace always, by all means. The Lord be with you all," now,—henceforth,—and forever more.

Amen, and amen. So mote it be.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE GRAND VISITATIONS TO THE SEVERAL MARK LODGES
IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

April 10th, A. D. 1866—A. I. 2396, to

Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214.

APRIL 17th, A. D. 1866—A. I. 2396, to

EXCELSIOR MARK LODGE, No. 216.

MAY 14th, A. D. 1866—A. I. 2396, to

Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91.

Worshipful Master,

Officers, and Brethren

of ——— Mark Lodge, No. ——— :

The position of Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania requires of him who occupies it certain general duties, for the full and proper discharge of which he is vested with ample powers: the details of the manner in which those duties shall be performed, and the occasions for the exercise of those powers, are left to his own discretion. It is specifically enjoined upon the Grand High Priest as a duty, to visit annually every Chapter and Mark Master's Lodge within the city of Philadelphia, and other such Lodges and Chapters under his jurisdiction, if practicable. The duty thus enjoined does not necessarily imply more, than that the Grand High Priest shall personally attend at least one meeting in every year, of the several Chapters and Mark Lodges. Power, however, is vested in him, at his pleasure, to make more formal and ceremonious visitations, accompanied by his Grand Officers. The office of Grand High Priest is one of grave responsibilities; the interests of Royal Arch Masonry within his jurisdiction are in great measure committed to his charge. Their supervision and care should receive his attentive, thoughtful, and interested consideration. It should be his desire, and call forth his earnest effort, to spare no labor or attention to make the relation of the Grand Chapter to the subordinate Chapters and Lodges felt and appreciated, as one of an intimate, close, and mutually beneficial and advantageous character; to stimulate the Companions and Mark Masters to the exercise and practice of those high Masonic virtues which are inculcated in the ritual; to infuse life, and spirit, and energy throughout the whole body of Royal Arch Masonry under his jurisdiction.

Who is sufficient for these things? Deeply conscious of the honor of the office,—jealous of its dignity and prerogatives,—and very grateful for the mark of confidence and esteem manifested in our unanimous election to this high position, by the suffrages

of the members of the Grand Chapter,—we shrink from no duty or responsibility imposed upon us.

We are here present with you, this evening, Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren, in our official capacity; and as fitting and appropriate to the occasion, we propose to “examine and inquire into the state of your Mark Lodge, and your proceedings,” and to give such “due Masonic advice and instruction” in an “affectionate and brotherly address,” as may be in our power, and may seem useful and advisable; “recommending Harmony and Union, and the strictest adherence to the true and acknowledged principles of Ancient Masonry.”

It has afforded us sincere pleasure, Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren, to learn from the report of the Most Excellent Grand Secretary, the flourishing and prosperous condition of your Mark Lodge. * * * * *

The state of your finances indicates a high degree of prosperity, and a careful administration of your funds. The calls for charity have been liberally responded to. Occasion may be taken in the course of this address, to suggest, and perhaps urge that some measures be adopted by the several Mark Lodges, with a view to a wider and more general diffusion of their material charities, in relieving the necessities and distresses of our brethren, and their widows and orphans.

It is of special importance that the principles of our institution should ever be kept in view, and deep graven on our hearts; and manifested and exemplified in practice, as well in connection with the duties required in the Lodge, as in our daily intercourse with our fellow-men, and in all the relations of life. Let us not be satisfied with the outward form; let us reflect upon, learn, appreciate and practically apply those moral lessons which the solemn ceremonies of our institution are intended and, if rightly heeded, well calculated to impress deeply on the mind.

Let us rightly apprehend our forms and ceremonies. There is, it may safely be said, in the majority of human minds, an element which derives pleasure from, and is susceptible of influence through, form and ceremony, and pomp and gorgeous display. This disposition or element manifests itself in various ways, and is developed in many forms. The most striking

instance, perhaps, and the one which is especially appropriate to be mentioned in this connection, is the splendid and unrivalled ritual, and labored and manifold ceremonial of the Jewish religion, which had the express sanction of the Most High. An entire tribe—that of Levi—was specially set apart for the service of the Tabernacle and the Temple; and three times in each year were the whole people commanded to assemble at Jerusalem for the celebration of their solemn feasts. The splendid courts and chambers of the Temple were filled with numerous priests and Levites, clad in gorgeous and appropriate robes and vestments, and constantly engaged in the duties of the service.

And all these forms and ceremonies were full of deep meaning and import to the minds and hearts of the devout and pious worshippers. So, too, should the forms and ceremonies of Masonry be reverently regarded by the true Masonic heart. The traditions of Masonry, which have been handed down through successive ages from a remote antiquity, and blend themselves with all our outward ceremonial, relate to sacred things, which are to be ever treated with serious respect and consideration. The forms and ceremonies in themselves become meaningless and without force, unless “the beautiful system of morality,” which is “veiled in their allegory,” is pondered and dwelt upon. The performance and celebration of the ritual, oft-times repeated, loses the attraction it might first have had from novelty, if no hidden and symbolical meaning is perceived and understood. As a dull routine, it is hurried through without heart or feeling; and he is looked upon as the most accomplished workman who can get through what has become a tedious recital, in the shortest way and the most rapid manner. But with mind and heart thoroughly imbued, and strongly impressed, with the high and exalted lessons of deep moral import and significance, which underlie and run through every part and point of our ceremonial mysteries, the true Mason enters upon and engages in the labors of the Lodge with an intelligent and awakened interest. The forms and ceremonies become instinct with life; and the highest and best faculties of mind and heart are exercised and developed in the earnest, thoughtful effort to so perform his duty and share in the labors, that nothing, however small or minute, shall fail to be carried out intelligently, intelligibly, and with its fullest effect and meaning. * * * * *

A belief in God—the Supreme Architect of the Universe—

our Creator, Preserver, and all-bountiful Benefactor—is insisted upon as an essential requisite in every one who would enter the temple of our mysteries. The altar of the one only living and true God is represented by the pedestal, which is ever present, the central object, in all our Chapter and Lodge rooms. From the sacred volume, filled with precious truths and promises, which lies ever open upon the pedestal, the most sublime and beautiful portions of our varied and extensive ritual, and the purest principles of our morality, are derived. It is the best Masonic monitor; and he who familiarizes himself with the precepts of the Bible, and exemplifies them in his daily life, and in all his intercourse with his brethren, and who studies with devout interest the history of the dealings of the Creator with his creatures, as recorded in its pages, cannot fail to be a better man, and a better and brighter Mason.

The Degree of Mark Master teaches the lessons of order, system and regularity in the discharge of all the duties of life, and the exercise of that charity which springs from an all-pervading love to God and to our fellow-men. Its traditions and ritual point to and exemplify the wise regulations established and ordained by our three Grand Masters, for the prevention of confusion, and the maintenance of discipline and order, among the vast multitude of workmen engaged in the erection of the great Temple at Jerusalem: while the lessons of charity, inculcated in this degree, should serve to divest the prejudices and enlarge the hearts of all who are admitted to its mysteries.

This charity is love, benevolence, forbearance, forgiveness, patient endurance under injury, kindness, consideration for the feelings of others, sympathy with their sufferings, distresses and misfortunes; not mere almsgiving or ministering pecuniary or material assistance and relief. True, of our abundance or according to our means, will this charity and love incite us to contribute to the relief of the material wants of the distressed and the unfortunate, the widow and the orphan. But let the material aid not be coldly and formally bestowed; let the warmth and feeling of a fraternal and sincere sympathy add double value to the gift.

And here permit the suggestion intimated in the earlier part of this address. It is believed that all the Mark Lodges have large funds invested, from which a permanent income is derived, in addition to large receipts from dues and fees. Their ordinary

and current expenses are comparatively light. May it not be possible, brethren, to institute a more active system of ministering to the material relief of poor and distressed brethren, their widows and orphans? Comparatively few petitions for charity are presented to the Mark Lodges. Can we not seek the opportunity, instead of waiting for the presentation of claims upon our charities? Will it not tend to enlarge our sympathies,—elevate our minds,—lend new interest to our labors,—exemplify and intensify the development of that virtue which is the special and peculiar attribute of this degree,—if, by a more watchful interest and inquiry in respect to our brethren of the Mark, and the condition of the families of those who are taken from us, we can manifest a more personal and individual concern for their welfare, and by prompt, and voluntary, and unsolicited action, relieve their distresses and minister to their necessities?

Another subject has presented itself to our mind and received our anxious and careful consideration. The three Mark Lodges in this city are the only ones in this jurisdiction—and, so far as known, the only ones in this country—separately constituted as distinct from Royal Arch Chapters. Elsewhere, the Mark Degree is conferred in the Chapter; a Mark Lodge being opened under the power and authority conferred by the Chapter warrant. The Lodges constituted in this city under separate warrants were, it is believed, so constituted as a matter of convenience, to relieve the pressure of work upon the Chapters, leaving them more time and opportunity for conferring the degrees of Most Excellent Master and the Royal Arch. The number of Mark Master Masons in this city is largely in excess of the number of Royal Arch Masons. The Mark Degree is taken in many, very many instances, and the other degrees, under the jurisdiction of Royal Arch Masonry, are never thought of. Brethren, let us affectionately and earnestly say to you, that this should not be so. Can we not see for ourselves,—do we not admit, and openly confess,—the motive which influences many in thus advancing but part way in the mysteries over which Royal Arch Masonry and the Grand Chapter exercise control and supervision, and which appropriately belong thereto? The Grand Chapter, when the subject was presented for its consideration some years since, wisely concluded that it was inexpedient to interfere by formal and absolute prohibition, with the open wearing and display of Masonic marks. The practice is not to

be commended. The wearing of a mark is no proof that the wearer is a Mason. But it is to be feared that the attainments of but too many in Mark Masonry begin and end with the right and privilege of the open and conspicuous display of their mark. Of any desire or attempt to penetrate and understand the esoteric mysteries of the Mark Degree, or even to make themselves familiar with its outward symbols and ceremonials, they seem wholly destitute. The possession of this degree alone, even if familiar enough with its external rites to gain them admission into a Mark Master's Lodge, will prove of but little or no service to brethren in visiting other jurisdictions. An Entered Apprentice should as little think of failing to present himself for advancement to the Fellow Craft and Master Mason's Degrees, as a Mark Master of neglecting to apply to be received and accepted a Most Excellent Master, and exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch. We have felt bound, in virtue of our office, and in view of the interests committed to our charge and supervision, to utter these words of affectionate admonition.

And now, Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren, we are about to take leave of you. For the cordial reception we have received at this Grand Visitation, and for the patient and interested attention that has been given to our words, we thank you. It may never be our privilege again to thus visit your Lodge. It is beyond probability that we shall all be permitted ever again to meet on such an occasion. The time cometh—and no man knoweth how soon—when our earthly labors must cease; when our working tools must be forever dropped; when we shall no more take part in the rites and ceremonies of our institution; when the Grand High Priest, King, and Scribe, Masters, and Overseers, and Workmen—one and all—must forever lay aside their robes and vestments, their jewels and regalia, and together stand before the Supreme Grand Overseer, to be tried by his unerring square. May we all, my brethren, when the hour of death shall come, and we be summoned hence, be able to look back upon our past lives with the consciousness of having, through Divine Guidance and assistance, been enabled in some degree to faithfully accomplish, each in his station and place, our allotted task, and receive that “*white stone*, and in the stone a *new name* written, which no man knoweth saving him that receiveth it.”

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE GRAND VISITATION MADE TO

Jerusalem Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 3,

PHILADELPHIA,

April 23d, A. D. 1866—A. I. 2396.

NOTE.—The same address substantially, with such variations as were necessary to adapt it to the respective Chapters, was delivered at the Grand Visitations made as follows:

May 4,	A. D. 1866—A. I. 2396, to	Harmony H. R. A. Chapter, No. 52,	Philadelphia.
" 8,	" " " " "	Lackawanna " " "	" 185, Scranton.
" 18,	" " " " "	Philadelphia " " "	" 169, Philadelphia.
July 16,	" " " " "	{ Zerubbabel " " "	" 162, } Pittsburgh.
		{ Duquesne " " "	" 193, }
Nov. 23,	" " " " "	Lafayette " " "	" 163, Lockhaven.

Most Excellent High Priest,

Officers and Companions

Of Jerusalem H. R. A. Chapter, No. 3 :

It is with peculiar satisfaction, and yet with a feeling of special responsibility, that we rise in our official capacity to address the Chapter which, in the "Historic Sketch of the Capitular Degrees," (printed under the sanction of the Most Excellent Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, in connection with her Constitution,) is noted as "the first Royal Arch Chapter in America, of which any definite or particular account is extant." The precise date and circumstances of even your origin is somewhat hidden in obscurity. It was prior to 1758, and this is the extent of what the author of that "Historic Sketch," with all the resources at his command, seems to have been able to ascertain and record. Your Chapter originally worked under the Warrant of Blue Lodge, No. 3, one of the oldest of the Blue Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Prior to the organization under a separate Constitution, of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, in 1824, all the Chapters and Mark Lodges worked under the warrants of Blue Lodges. As was right and just, the first warrant issued by the Grand Chapter after its elevation to an existence independent of the Grand Lodge, in 1824, was granted to Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3.

The Grand Chapter, by the Constitution, has and exercises "supreme power and authority over Royal Arch, Most Excellent and Mark Masonry, within the State of Pennsylvania, and Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging." As the first officer of the Grand Chapter, to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest are committed many extensive powers; and upon him are devolved many important and responsible duties, in the execution of the power and authority of the Grand Chapter. The interests of Royal Arch Masonry, and of the Degrees connected therewith, are in great measure committed to his supervision and care.

The office is, and always should be, regarded with respect and honor ; and, if worthily filled, with a just sense of its duties and responsibilities, imparts honor to him who is called to occupy this most important station. Its honors and dignities cannot be satisfactorily enjoyed, if those duties and responsibilities be not rightly esteemed, and faithfully discharged. The office is not for the sake of the individual who fills it ; it is meant and intended for the benefit and advantage of the craft. Deeply conscious of the honor of the office,—jealous of its dignity,—and called to the position by the unanimous suffrage of the members of the Grand Chapter,—we have assumed its responsibilities with the earnest and determined purpose, to spare no efforts to so use and exercise the powers and privileges inherent therein, or specially conferred by the Grand Chapter, as to materially advance the interests of Royal Arch Masonry ; and to be able to lay down the sceptre, at the close of our term of office, with the approving sanction of our own conscience. If our efforts and labors shall accord with the views, and meet the approbation of the Companions, through whose suffrages this important trust has been committed to our charge, it will be a grateful recollection to be cherished to the latest hour of my life.

It is enjoined upon the Grand High Priest, by the Constitution, as a specific duty, “to visit annually every Chapter and Mark Master’s Lodge within the City of Philadelphia, and all other such Lodges and Chapters under his jurisdiction, if practicable.” The duty thus enjoined is literally performed if, at least once in each year, the Grand High Priest personally visits each of the Chapters and Mark Lodges in Philadelphia, and, so far as he may be able, the other Chapters throughout the State. There are in the city of Philadelphia six Royal Arch Chapters and three Mark Lodges ; and, in other parts of the State, thirty-eight Chapters, besides three for which warrants have been granted, but which have not yet been constituted ; and applications for two other warrants are now under consideration by the Grand Officers. To visit, instruct, and address all these subordinate bodies, personally and individually, requires no small labor. But provision is made by the Constitution for more formal and ceremonious Grand Visitations by the Grand High Priest, accompanied by his Grand Officers. In the belief that

such visitations may, if properly conducted, be made instrumental for the advancement and prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry, we have determined to take advantage of this privilege and power conferred upon us. In the performance of this duty, it is our earnest desire, that our visitations may be the means of making the relation of the Grand Chapter to the subordinate Chapters and Lodges felt and appreciated, as one of an intimate and mutually beneficial and advantageous character.

In the presence of Royal Arch Masons, we need but allude to the necessity of a reliance upon the assistance and guidance of the great JEHOVAH, that we may be enabled rightly, faithfully, and as accountable to Him for all our thoughts, words and actions, to discharge our responsible and arduous duties.

We are with you this evening, Most Excellent High Priest, Officers and Companions, accompanied by our Grand Officers, to visit officially—and in the name and by the authority of the Most Excellent Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania—Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3. It is fitting, on such an occasion, not only that we should “examine and inquire into the state of your Chapter and your proceedings ;” but it is incumbent on us “to give you all due Masonic advice and instruction,” and to deliver an “affectionate and brotherly Address, recommending Harmony and Union, and the strictest adherence to the true and acknowledged principles of Ancient Masonry.”

It has afforded us sincere pleasure to learn, from the Report of the Most Excellent Grand Secretary, the prosperous and flourishing condition of your Chapter. More than one hundred years old, let us hope that its existence may endure through succeeding centuries, till the last Royal Arch Mason shall have passed from earth, and been summoned to the eternal Tabernacle above.

First upon the list of your Past High Priests, as printed with your By-Laws, stands the name of Past Grand High Priest BAYSE NEWCOMB, a name which will never be forgotten among the Masons of Pennsylvania ; but ever honored, will be cherished with affection and respect, as that of a bright and exalted Brother and Companion. The earliest of our predecessors of whom we have had personal knowledge, he has, many years since, passed from

among the living. As an earnest and zealous Mason, and an accurate and accomplished workman, we recall the name of Past Grand High Priest HARMAN YERKES, also one of the Past High Priests of this Chapter. Still spared to assist in your labors are two other of your Past High Priests, who have filled the chief station in the Grand Chapter; while, among the other names upon the list of those who have been called to the Oriental Chair, now so worthily filled by yourself, Most Excellent High Priest, appear many personally known to us for their zeal and fidelity to the institution. Some have been called to their last account; while others yet live, and are active in all the labors of the Craft. Of the late Most Excellent Grand Secretary, Companion William H. Adams, so long an active and useful member of your Chapter, we have had occasion to speak in your presence, at the solemn services recently celebrated in his memory.

The few corrections which, as appears from the Report of the Most Excellent Grand Secretary, are required in the manner and form of keeping the Minutes, demand, and will no doubt receive, your careful attention. That your financial condition is so prosperous, and that due heed has been paid to the calls upon your charities for the relief of the poor and distressed, are gratifying to learn. The Report is directed to be spread in full upon the Minutes of this meeting.

Masonry, my Companions, is no barren and unfruitful theme, to him who will look beyond its outward form and ceremonial, and penetrate into those higher esoteric mysteries which are veiled in its symbols. Nay, if there be not time, opportunity, or disposition to indulge in speculative inquiry—often, it is true, leading to extravagance and vain imaginations—what a wide and interesting field for thought and study presents itself, in the historical and traditional events which are inwrought into the very structure of our ceremonies, and whose relations and developments spread themselves over the centuries of a remote antiquity. Fresh avenues of thought open out to the mind of the diligent and earnest student, and new beauties develop themselves as he advances in knowledge. The forms and ceremonies become instinct with life, and the celebration of the ritual is engaged in with a new, and ever deepening and freshening interest. To him

who contents himself with a superficial acquaintance with, or even with a mere familiarity and readiness in the performance of the outward ceremonial, the attraction which its novelty might have exercised at the outset soon loses its force as the novelty wears off; and the ritual too often becomes a tedious and uninteresting recital.

This effect is peculiarly to be guarded against in the work of the degrees under the jurisdiction of Royal Arch Masonry. The especially solemn and impressive ceremonies of these degrees—in particular those of the Most Excellent, and Royal Arch—afford scope for the profoundest thought, and the exercise of the highest and best faculties of the mind and heart. It should be the purpose of every Royal Arch Mason fully to apprehend and appreciate, and enter with devout interest into the sublime and moral significance of our outward rites and ceremonies. They relate to and concern sacred things, which deserve, and should ever have the profoundest reverence and respect. Beyond and above the belief in the existence of the one only living and true God, which is an essential requisite in all before they can pass even the threshold of the Masonic Temple, we are taught in the Royal Arch Degree the reverence due His holy name. And this involves not merely a respectful use and treatment of the outward and material language or enunciation of that name; but a reverential regard of all which that name implies and contains; of the attributes, character, government and ordinances of God, as the Supreme Ruler and Governor of the Universe—our Creator, Preserver, and all-bountiful Benefactor—self-existent, without beginning of days, or end of years—Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent—the great I AM.

His dealings with the children of Israel, that peculiar people—chosen of God—the seed of Abraham, His friend—in and around, and upon whose sacred City and Temple all the forms and ceremonies of our Institution circle and centre, afford manifestations of the character, attributes, and government of the Deity, which should excite the liveliest emotions, and awaken the most profound interest in their contemplation and study.

Let us, then, my Companions, strive to rise to the height of our great privileges, and avail ourselves to the fullest extent of the opportunities afforded us for moral and intellectual improvement. Let us not be content with a mere knowledge, more or less perfect, of the outward ceremonial of our institution; but,

with minds and hearts earnestly intent on developing the resources placed within our reach, let us enter upon and engage in the duties and labors of the Chapter with serious interest.

While no Companion should consider himself free from responsibility and obligation in this regard, in an especial manner should the High Priest and Officers of a Chapter feel it incumbent upon them, to be examples of every Masonic virtue to those over whose labors they are called to preside. Consider who it is that the High Priest in our Chapters represents, and the symbolical meaning of his vestments and jewels and regalia, which should never be worn without a deep sense of the moral lessons to be derived from their splendid and gorgeous array. In that remarkable Theocracy—the ancient Jewish nation—the family of Aaron was consecrated and set apart by God himself for the priesthood. The High Priest had certain peculiar duties connected with his office, principal among which was the entering within the vail of the Holy of Holies once every year, on the great day of Atonement, and sprinkling the Mercy Seat which covered the Ark of the Covenant, with the blood of the sacrifice. He alone could consult the Oracle of God, and inquire of JEHOVAH by means of the mysterious Urim and Thummin. His office was one of holy and solemn import.

His ordinary or usual dress, when engaged in the duties of the Temple, was composed of garments of varied splendor and magnificence. A robe or tunic of white linen, emblematical of that purity of thought and conduct befitting his high and sacred office as the chief minister at the altar of the Most High God, covered his entire body to the feet. Over this he wore the robe of the ephod “of woven work, all of blue,” emblematic of that friendship of JEHOVAH for his people, which was manifested by the presence of the Shekinah over the Mercy Seat within the vail, where the High Priest alone might enter. Being of the color of the vast canopy of Heaven stretching over all the earth, it was also emblematical of the all-powerful, everywhere present, protection and guardianship of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, whose Almighty Hand created and sustains the vast arch of the firmament. Upon the hem of this robe of the ephod were pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet, and twined linen, with bells of pure gold round about between the pomegranates. The pomegranate was a fruit greatly esteemed in ancient times,

and is mentioned by Moses as among the excellencies of the promised land, when, just prior to his ascent of Mount Nebo to die, he laid down the law to the children of Israel.

“For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig-trees, and *pomegranates*; a land of oil olive, and honey. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.”—Deut. viii. 7, 8, 10.

The golden bells, representing the bell or tulip-shaped blossom of the pomegranate, and the tassels of blue and purple and scarlet and twined linen, representing the fruit, were emblematic of the varied blessings which a beneficent Creator had provided, not merely for the necessary wants and sustenance of his creatures, but for their lavish provision in all essential requisites for rational enjoyment. What a striking and practical lesson may we derive, my Companions, from the bells and the pomegranates which adorn the hem of the High Priest’s robe. How applicable to our seasons of refreshment when, in the intervals of our labor, we assemble round the bountiful and cheerful board to enjoy social converse, and partake of those gifts which have been provided for the use of man by the Author of all good, not only for the support of our actual existence, but for the pleasures of sense and appetite. Let us receive them as they are given; let us indulge in moderation, as rational and accountable beings, restraining ourselves from all excess and over-indulgence, and using as not abusing the good gifts of Providence.

“Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full * * * Then thy heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God * * * who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good.”—Deut. viii. 11, 12, 14, 15, 16.

Over the robe of the *ephod* was worn the *ephod* itself—“of gold, blue and purple, and scarlet, and fine-twined linen,” with cunning work—to which was attached the breastplate, upon the precious stones of which were engraved the names of the twelve

tribes of Israel. The chief minister of their holy religion—the final judge and arbiter in all matters of the ceremonial law—the High Priest ever bore upon his heart, before God, the welfare and interests of His chosen people, the names of whose tribes were graven upon the breastplate. The ephod, curiously wrought of many colors, was emblematical of the many virtues and excellencies of which the High Priest was expected to be the pattern and example to his people. And the breastplate, bearing the names of their tribes, and worn over the heart, and containing the sacred and mysterious Urim and Thummim, by which the Oracles of God were consulted, was emblematical of that deep-seated and heartfelt interest which he ought ever to have in the welfare and prosperity of Israel, and served to remind him of the high and holy responsibilities of his office.

The girdle of fine-twined linen, and blue, and purple and scarlet, of needle-work, which confined the ephod, was emblematical of that restraint which the High Priest should put upon all his passions.

Upon his head was the Mitre—as a holy crown—of fine linen, emblematic of purity of judgment; and the plate of pure gold, upon which was graven “Holiness to the Lord,” was significant of that entire consecration of himself to the service of the Most High God which was especially demanded by his exalted position.

Does it, perchance, my Companions, seem to you that we exalt the privileges and responsibilities of our position as Royal Arch Masons beyond reasonable limits? Recollect, then, the frailties and weaknesses of human nature, its tendencies downward rather than upward, and consider whether we can go too far in any effort to elevate and dignify its aspirations in any field of labor. And let us each strive to realize and exemplify, in all our intercourse with each other as Masons, and in all our relations in life, those high attributes and virtues, which the solemn rites and ceremonies of our institution so forcibly inculcate.

We address these words to you, affectionately, earnestly and fraternally; let them fall upon your ears, and sink into your hearts, with that weight which their intrinsic importance demands, and which the dignity of our office should lend to them.

And now, Most Excellent High Priest, Officers and Companions, we are about to take leave of you. It may never be our privilege again to visit your Chapter upon such an occasion. It is hardly probable that we shall all be permitted again thus to assemble. We must part; the time cometh,—and no man knoweth when or how soon,—when you, my Companions, must behold the countenance upon which you now look—we say it with an affectionate pride—with respect and regard, and the lips to whose utterances you have yielded so earnest and interested an attention, cold and silent in Death. May you then be enabled to say, from your inmost hearts: He has faithfully fulfilled the duties of his station. It may be, that we also must look upon many of those faces now instinct with life and health, and which are turned upon us with fraternal regard, when they shall be passive and lifeless. May we, then, be enabled to turn away from your graves, with the feeling that we have discharged toward you, each and every one, not only the duties of a Brother and Companion, but the full measure of our responsibilities as your Grand High Priest.

God be merciful unto you and bless you, and cause His face to shine upon you.

The Lord hear you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend you; Send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion; Remember all your offerings, and accept your burnt sacrifice; Grant you according to your own heart, and fulfil all your counsel.

The Lord preserve you from all evil. The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth, and even forevermore.

Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always, by all means. The Lord be with you all.

Amen! and Amen! So mote it be!



ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE GRAND VISITATION MADE TO

Solomon's Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 191,

MEADVILLE,

July 19th, A. D. 1866—A. I. 2396.

NOTE.—The same address substantially, with such variations as were necessary to adapt it to the respective Chapters, was delivered at the Grand Visitations made as follows :

April 19,	A. D. 1866—A. I. 2396,	to Oriental H. R. A. Chapter, No. 183,	Philadelphia.
" 26,	" " " "	" Keystone " "	" 175, Philadelphia.
May 8,	" " " "	" Eureka " "	" 179, Carbondale.
" 10,	" " " "	" Warren " "	" 180, Montrose.
" 12,	" " " "	" Shekinah " "	" 182, Wilkesbarre.
" 16,	" " " "	" Columbia " "	" 91, Philadelphia.

Most Excellent High Priest,

Officers and Companions,

Of Solomon's Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 191 :

Called by the unanimous suffrage of the members of the Most Excellent Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, to fill the station of Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the present Masonic year, we are present with you this evening, accompanied by our Grand Officers, for the purpose of a formal official Visitation. The honors of the station of Grand High Priest cannot be worthily or satisfactorily enjoyed, if the performance of its duties be neglected or overlooked. The Constitution of the Grand Chapter enjoins upon the Grand High Priest certain specific duties ; and, by the same Constitution and general Masonic law, he is vested with ample powers for the full and proper discharge, as well of these specified duties, as of all others which are inherent in his office. The grave responsibilities which rest upon him, in the supervision and care of the interests of Royal Arch Masonry within the jurisdiction of his Grand Chapter, will suggest the method and occasion for the discharge of his duties and the exercise of his powers.

It is specifically enjoined by the Constitution, that the Grand High Priest shall visit annually every Chapter and Mark Master's Lodge within the City of Philadelphia, and other such Lodges and Chapters under his jurisdiction, if practicable. This duty is fulfilled to the letter, if he personally attend at least one meeting in every year, of the several Chapters and Mark Lodges. Provision, however, is made for more formal and ceremonious Grand Visitations. In the belief that such visitations may be made the means for the advancement of the prosperity of the institution, we have felt it a duty to exercise the privilege and power thus conferred upon us. It is our firm conviction that, with proper effort, such visitations will have the effect of making the relation of the Grand Chapter to the subordinate Chapters

felt and appreciated as one of an intimate and mutually beneficial character; of stimulating the Companions to the more constant and careful exercise and practice of those high Masonic virtues which are inculcated in the ritual; and of infusing life, spirit and energy throughout the whole body of Royal Arch Masonry under the jurisdiction. We have already visited the six Chapters and three Mark Lodges in the city of Philadelphia, and seven Chapters in the interior, besides having personally constituted seven new Chapters in different parts of the State; two others it is expected will be constituted before the Grand Officers return to Philadelphia.

Well may these responsibilities awaken serious reflection on the part of him upon whose brow rests the Mitre, inscribed with "Holiness to the Lord," and whose hand wields the Sceptre of the Grand High Priest! Deeply conscious of the honor of the office,—jealous of its dignity and prerogatives,—and ever invoking the presence, and assistance, and guidance of the great JEHOVAH, in the discharge of our duties,—we shrink from no responsibility imposed upon us.

It is fitting and appropriate to this occasion, not only that we should "examine and inquire into the state of your Chapter and your proceedings," but that we should give you such "due Masonic advice and instruction" in an "affectionate and brotherly Address," as may be in our power, and may seem useful and advisable; "recommending Harmony and Union, and the strictest adherence to the true and acknowledged principles of Ancient Masonry."

It has afforded us sincere pleasure, Most Excellent High Priest, Officers and Companions, to hear from the Report of the Most Excellent Grand Secretary, the flourishing and prosperous condition of Solomon's Chapter, No. 191. Such corrections in the manner of keeping the Minutes as are indicated by his Report will, no doubt, have your careful attention. The Report is directed to be spread in full upon the Minutes of this meeting.

We are with you as Brethren and Companions, not as strangers

—not as having antagonistic and conflicting interests ; but as having a strong and common bond and tie, each with the true interests and prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry throughout the whole length and breadth of this one great Commonwealth, sincerely and deeply at heart. We grasp your hands ; we greet you cordially, earnestly, and fraternally ; and we feel your warm Masonic hearts answer to the pulsations of our own. We are at home with you—Brethren and Companions of the same great family.

It is of the utmost importance, my Companions, that the principles of our institution should ever be kept in view ; that the purpose and meaning of our forms and ceremonies should be rightly appreciated ; and that we should derive the full benefit and advantage of those moral lessons, which our solemn ritual is intended, and, if rightly heeded, well calculated to impress deeply on the mind.

The traditions of Masonry, which have been handed down through successive ages from a remote antiquity, and blend themselves with all our outward ceremonial, relate to sacred things which are ever to be treated with seriousness and respect. The forms and ceremonies in themselves become meaningless and without force, unless “the beautiful system of morality” which is “veiled in their allegory,” is rightly apprehended. The ritual, oft-times repeated, loses the attraction it might first have had from novelty, if no hidden and symbolical meaning is perceived and understood. Impatient of what has become a somewhat tedious recital, too often an undue haste and precipitancy is urged upon the officers ; and the standard of excellence is lowered to a question of rapidity and brevity in the performance of the work. But with mind and heart thoroughly imbued with the lessons of deep moral import which underlie and run through every part and point of our ceremonial mysteries, the true Mason enters upon, and assists in all the labors of the Chapter with an intelligent and awakened interest. The forms and ceremonies become instinct with life ; and the highest and best faculties of mind and heart are exercised and developed in the earnest, thoughtful effort to so perform his duty, and share in the labors, that no part or point, however minute or subordinate,

shall fail to be carried out intelligently, intelligibly, and with its fullest effect and meaning. * * * * *

[The remarks upon the Most Excellent Master's and Royal Arch Degrees, as found in the Address, ante, pages 70-73, were here repeated.]

It is a subject in which the devout and contemplative mind may find occasion for the profoundest thought, the history of that peculiar people, chosen of God—the children of Abraham, His friend,—in, and around, and upon whose sacred City and splendid Temple, all the traditions of our fraternity circle and centre.

The Temple of Solomon, with all its splendor and magnificence,—adorned and beautified by the skill and cunning art of “Hiram, a widow's son,”—is destroyed; the second Temple, erected upon its ruins by the labors of the Craft, when the Jews returned from the Babylonish captivity, has been utterly swept away—one stone not left upon another. Never do we hope to behold the corner-stone of another Temple laid with the solemn rites of our Fraternity, upon Mount Moriah. Never shall we again see the Craft assembled to witness and celebrate, with shoutings and rejoicings, the bringing forth of a cope-stone, gloriously fashioned by the highest skill of most eminent workmen, to crown the Temple of the one only living and true God upon that sacred spot. All earthly things must perish—

“And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve.”

But we cherish, my Companions, the hope of a glorious immortality. We shall be laid to our rest, one by one, in the cold and silent tomb, by our surviving brethren; but, as they turn lingeringly from the open grave, each will deposit upon the coffin, the evergreen—simple emblem of our hope. There is a heavenly Temple—a house not made with hands—eternal in the heavens, whose builder and maker is God, and whose splendors and beauties infinitely surpass the highest creations of human art. “That great city, the holy Jerusalem!” How do the works of

man sink into nothingness, as we read of the wondrous beauty and perfection of that heavenly Temple ! “ Having the glory of God : and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” “ And the building of the wall of it was of jasper : and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls ; every several gate was of one pearl : and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. * * * The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are *the temple* of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it : for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it. * * * And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day : for there shall be no night there.”

How surpassingly beautiful ! How infinitely glorious ! We are still, my Companions, permitted to labor in our earthly Temple ; the time cometh,—and none knoweth how soon,—when we shall be summoned from labor here below, to drop our working tools ; High Priest, King and Scribe, Officers and Companions, to lay aside forever our earthly robes and vestments, our jewels and regalia, and together stand before the Supreme Grand High Priest of the Universe to be judged. Shall we be found ready for the summons ? Shall we be able to render up a good account with joy and not with grief, and receive “ a white stone, and in the stone a *new name* written, which no man knoweth saving him that receiveth it ? ”

And now, Most Excellent High Priest, Officers and Companions, this Grand Visitation is drawing to a close. In a day or two we shall leave you. We have had a most cordial and respectful reception, and have enjoyed a free and fraternal intercourse upon matters connected with the interests of the Craft, and have partaken of your generous hospitalities. The recollections of this visit will dwell in our memories, with a fragrance like to that of the holy oil of consecration with which the High Priest of old was anointed.

Let us, ever, my Companions, when we assemble in the Chap-

ter hall, and engage in the rites and ceremonies of the various Capitular Degrees, enter upon our labors with minds and hearts duly impressed with the sacred and solemn character of the legends, traditions, and history which serve as their groundwork. Let us strive to realize and establish, in our own minds, a true and Masonic conception and appreciation of the lessons which they are meant to exemplify and inculcate. May "Holiness to the Lord" be written on all our thoughts and actions. And may "the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all:" now, henceforth and forevermore. Amen! and Amen! So mote it be!

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

A B S T R A C T

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE

Most Excellent Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING:

BEING EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF ITS

QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATIONS,

AND THE

Report of the Committee on Correspondence,

FOR THE YEARS

A. D. 1868, 1869—A. I. 2398, 2399.

PHILADELPHIA:

CO-OPERATIVE PRINTING CO., 30 AND 32 SOUTH SEVENTH ST.

1870.

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Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia. February 6, A. D. 1868, A. I. 2398.

The following report was read and accepted:

To the

Most Excellent Grand High Priest

and Companions of the

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:

The Committee on Finance respectfully report that they have examined the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary for the past year, and find them correct, showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, on the 27th December last, of eighteen hundred and eighty-two dollars and ninety-four cents, (\$1882.94,) as shown by the following exhibit, viz.:

Received by the Grand Treasurer from January 1 to December 27, 1867:

Interest on loans and sale of gold,	.	.	.	.	\$180 29
Dues from Chapters, Mark Lodges and warrants.	.	.	.	.	3,649 40
					<hr/> \$3,829 69
Paid for salaries, regalia, printing, &c.,	.	.	.	.	\$946 75
And invested.	.	.	.	.	1,000 00
					<hr/> 1,946 75

Balance in hands of Grand Treasurer, Dec. 27, 1867, . \$1,882 94

Respectfully submitted.

E. P. LESCURE,

JAMES SIMPSON,

Committee.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6, 1868.

The following report was made by the Grand Officers, and, on motion, approved:

That the only amendment necessary to the form of "Petition to a Mark Lodge" is to add after the "blank," (see Form 10, page 72, Constitution Grand Chapter,) following the words "held at," in the body of the petition, the words "that he has passed the Chair."

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest decided that no sojourner of a Mark Lodge can, under the recent amendment of the Constitution, be admitted to membership without having passed the Chair.

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, May 7, A. D. 1868, A. I. 2398.

The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted:

Amend ARTICLE XV, SECTION F, SUBSECTION 1, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, by inserting after the word "degree," in the second line, the words "or for membership in a Mark Lodge."

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, August 6, A. D. 1868, A. I. 2398.

The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted, viz.:

Amend SECTION 2, LETTER D, ARTICLE XV, by adding the following, viz.: "That Chapters located outside the city of Philadelphia be permitted to meet at such hour as may be determined by their by-laws."

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, November 5, A. D. 1868, A. I. 2398.

This being the time prescribed by the Constitution for the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing Masonic year, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest appointed Companions Past Grand High Priests Wood, Riley and Hutchinson tellers, who reported that the following-named Companions had been duly elected to the respective offices, viz.:

Comp. GEORGE GRISCOM,	.	.	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
“ MICHAEL NISBET,	.	.	“ <i>Grand King.</i>
“ CHARLES EUGENE MEYER,	.	.	“ <i>Grand Scribe.</i>
“ PETER WILLIAMSON,	.	.	“ <i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON.	.	.	“ <i>Grand Secretary.</i>

At this Grand Communication the following amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Chapter was adopted, to wit:

Amend ARTICLE 8, SECTION 5, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, by inserting after the word “meeting,” in the fifth line, the words “at least once in each year,” and after the word “such” insert the word “other.”

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION.

For St. John the Evangelist's Day,

Philadelphia, December 28, A. D. 1868, A. I. 2398.

The following-named Companions having been duly elected November 5, A. D. 1868, A. I. 2398, for the ensuing Masonic year, were this day installed, viz.:

Comp. GEORGE GRISCOM,	.	.	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
“ MICHAEL NISBET,	.	.	“ <i>Grand King.</i>
“ CHARLES EUGENE MEYER,	.	.	“ <i>Grand Scribe.</i>
“ PETER WILLIAMSON,	.	.	“ <i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON,	.	.	“ <i>Grand Secretary.</i>

After the ceremony of installation, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest George Griscom delivered the following address, which was received with marked attention by the Companions:

COMPANIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER:

On this auspicious day, which marks the ending of the last and the beginning of a new Masonic year, we are favored again with the privilege to assemble, an annual conclave of fraternal Companions, with ample cause for thankfulness to Providence, and joy both in a retrospect of the past and the prospect of the future.

During the last year the working and the spirit of the Order,

within our jurisdiction, have been characterized by zeal and fidelity and uniform harmony. The intercourse of the Grand High Priest and his officers, with the several Chapters, and with the Craft in general, has been of unalloyed pleasantness and cordial reciprocity of kindness and mutual sympathy and support.

In accordance with the views and intentions expressed in my address on assuming the responsibilities of the office of Grand High Priest, one year ago, the Grand Officers have been assiduous in endeavors both for the establishment and the preservation of uniformity of work and for the encouragement and the promotion of Royal Arch Masonry throughout our jurisdiction. In this labor of beneficence and fraternal love, they have been met by the most cordial and gratifying co-operation on the part of the Companions, both of the Chapters in Philadelphia and throughout the State.

During the year just ended, all the Chapters and Mark Masters' Lodges within the city of Philadelphia have been visited by me as Grand High Priest, and those meeting in this hall, as frequently as was in my power, in compliance with my duty under the Constitution, and in conformity with my desire, by personal interchange of views and fraternal feeling, to promote the prosperity, the harmony, and the happiness of every Chapter and Mark Lodge, and of all the Companions.

In addition to this, I have, on several occasions, called upon my Grand Officers to accompany me in the making of Grand Visitations, in ample form, to as many of the Chapters in the interior of the State as the pressure of many other duties, within the short space of a year, has allowed. To this call (it is my great pleasure to state) the Grand Officers have always responded with prompt and generous alacrity. The sacrifice of time and personal convenience and interests involved in these journeys of most arduous labor have never deterred them. They have always entered cordially into all my views and wishes, and not only by their wisdom and skill have assisted, but have upheld and supported me with their kindness, their sympathy, and their counsel, in every emergency of difficulty or trial.

I feel it incumbent on me to express emphatically this acknowledgment and tribute to the uniform skill, ability and dignified and fraternal bearing of the distinguished Companions elected and appointed, who have formed my board of Grand Officers, and to express my appreciation of the obligation the Order is under to them for their assiduous and faithful exertions.

It would be wrong not also to say here, and I believe every Grand Officer will concur with me in saying, that to the reciprocal zeal, cordial support, and prompt and cheerful acquiescence in our views and instructions, of the officers and Companions of all the Chapters we have visited, and of the District Deputy Grand High Priests, has been due, in a large measure, the rendering pleasant an arduous labor, and the assured and encouraging success which has been its result.

On the 20th of January, 1868, accompanied by my Grand Officers, I left this city for a Grand Visitation to Easton Chapter, No. 173, and the constituting of a new Chapter at Bethlehem. We were cordially received by the officers and Companions of the Easton Chapter, which, although of early formation, had never before received a Grand Visitation. After an inspection of their records, their hall, and its equipments and surroundings, the Chapter was opened, at 7 o'clock in the evening, when a Grand Visitation in ample form was made. The occasion was signalized by a large attendance of members and visiting Companions. An address by me as Grand High Priest was received with attention, and an interesting report on their minutes was made by Companion J. Alexander Simpson, Grand Secretary *pro tem*. Instruction on various points was given and cordially accepted. The Grand Officers then proceeded to exemplify the work; and the evening was profitably passed in answering inquiries for information in all the degrees, the appointments for the hall, and other points of interest to the Chapter and the Order, until a late hour, and the official duties of the visitation ended with evident satisfaction to all the Companions present.

On the next day, January 21, the Grand Officers were complimented with a tender by our Easton Companions of a conveyance to Bethlehem in a sleigh; and the company of several of the warm-

hearted Companions of Easton and vicinity was added to the pleasantness of that portion of our journey. I had fixed on the afternoon of this day at 3 o'clock to constitute the new Chapter, under the name of Zinzendorf Chapter, No. 216, at Bethlehem; and, on our arrival there, we found that the interest of the occasion had induced the assembling of a very large number of Companions, some of whom had followed us from Easton in sleighs, and others from the surrounding country and from Mauch Chunk, Reading, and other distant localities. At the hour appointed, Zinzendorf Chapter, No. 216, was duly constituted, in solemn and ample form, by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, assisted by his Grand Officers; and its officers duly installed in their respective stations. After this, the evening was devoted to an exemplification of the work for the benefit of the officers of the new Chapter. At the late hour of concluding these labors, the Grand Officers were invited by the Companions of the new Chapter to a social reunion, where we met one of the largest assemblages of the Craft ever convened on a similar occasion, which was addressed by the Grand High Priest and the Grand King, and several distinguished citizens of the Craft of that portion of the State, and a spirit of Masonic zeal marked all the proceedings; which concluded evidently with profit as well as fraternal pleasure to all.

On Friday, January 31, the Grand Officers left Bethlehem and arrived safely at home.

On the 7th of February, I issued a dispensation to Companion Thomas Davage, District Deputy Grand High Priest for District No. 12, to constitute a new Chapter, called Alleghany Chapter, No. 217, at Alleghany City, which, Companion Davage's report shows, was done in due and solemn form.

On the 3d of March, with a full complement of Grand Officers, I made a Grand Visitation to Phoenix Chapter, No. 198, at Phoenixville. After an address by me to the Chapter, the Grand Officers exemplified the work by conferring the three degrees. The attendance was good, both of members of Phoenix Chapter and of Companions of neighboring Chapters—Reading, Lancaster, West Chester and Norristown being represented. The labors of the evening ended to the satisfaction of the Compan-

ions, and, it is hoped, benefit of the Chapter, and were followed at an early hour of the morning by a pleasant social reunion with the members and visiting Companions of Phoenix Chapter. The Grand Officers returned home on the morning of the 4th, gratified with the results of their visit. District Deputy Grand High Priest C. M. Howell, of Lancaster, did the Grand High Priest and his officers the pleasure of his attendance on this occasion.

This Chapter had never before received a Grand Visitation. An interesting report on their minutes was made by Companion J. Alexander Simpson, Grand Secretary *pro tem.*, and ordered to be spread on their records.

By request of the Companions of Anthony Wayne Chapter, No. 204, at Honesdale, with my permission and concurrence, Companion Past High Priest John Beenken paid a visit of instruction to that Chapter, arriving there on March 7. Companion Beenken reports that, on the 9th, he opened a Chapter of instruction, drilled the officers in all the degrees, and installed the King, Scribe, Treasurer and Secretary of that Chapter. On the 10th, (their stated meeting,) he installed the High Priest, Companion Menner; again drilled the officers in the work, and conferred the Mark degree. On the 11th, he conferred the Most Excellent and Royal Arch degrees. He found the Chapter in a promising condition, numbering forty members, and anxious to preserve and practice the work in its purity.

On the 1st of April, a Grand Visitation was made by me and my Grand Officers to Norristown Chapter, No. 190. We were welcomed by the officers and Companions of that Chapter with cordial greeting, and joined in the evening by delegations from Germantown, Reading, Phoenixville, and other places. An address by me to the Chapter was well received; an interesting report on their minutes was read by Companion J. A. Simpson, Grand Secretary *pro tem.*, (this being the first Grand Visitation ever made to this Chapter,) and the Grand Officers then proceeded to exemplify the work. A social reunion of the Grand Officers, the Companions of this Chapter, and the visiting Companions, for refreshment after their labors, was most

cordial, pleasant and fraternal. On the 2d of April, the Grand Officers returned home.

In the month of April, Companion John Beenken, at request of the Companions at New Castle, Lawrence county, and with my approval, paid a visit of instruction to the Chapter there, and gave valuable assistance to the Companions in the organization of this Chapter for work.

On the 8th of May, pursuant to general notice which I had ordered, a Grand Chapter of instruction was held in this hall, at which were present the Grand Officers, many of the District Deputy Grand High Priests, several Past Grand High Priests, High Priests and officers of Chapters, and a considerable number of Companions from various parts of the State. All three degrees were exemplified by the Grand Officers, and all the Companions present participated in the exercises, which ended at 2.30 P. M., to general satisfaction, and it is hoped profit to the Order.

At 3.10 P. M., the Grand Chapter was again opened, a council of High Priests formed, and the order of High Priesthood was conferred by me on Companions J. King McLanahan, High Priest of Chapter 169, and William C. Hay, High Priest of Chapter 191, respectively.

On the 20th of July, I with the Grand King and Grand Scribe, and my corps of Grand Officers, left Philadelphia, on a tour of instruction, in a series of Grand Visitations to the several Chapters in the counties of Schuylkill, Northumberland, Columbia, Luzerne, Carbon and Lehigh, which had never yet received a Grand Visitation.

Made a Grand Visitation to Mountain City Chapter, No. 196, at Pottsville, that evening. My address to the Chapter was well received, and a report on the minutes was made by Companion J. Alexander Simpson, Grand Secretary *pro tem*. The work was exemplified in the several degrees by the Grand Officers. The attendance was large, and much interest was shown by the Companions.

This Chapter is in excellent condition, and working in harmony and prosperity.

On the 22d of July, left Pottsville, and paid a Grand Visitation

to Schuylkill Chapter, No. 159, at Minersville, at 7 o'clock in the evening. I delivered an address to the Chapter, the minutes were inspected and reported on by the Grand Secretary *pro tem.*, and the work was exemplified by the Grand Officers in the several degrees. The attendance was large, and much interest shown by the Companions in the exercises. After partaking of the generous hospitalities of the Companions of Schuylkill Chapter, where among the Companions the most cordial satisfaction was expressed at the results of the Grand Visitation, the Grand Officers returned by private conveyance, the same night, to Pottsville, to be ready next day to proceed to Tamaqua.

We arrived at Tamaqua on the 23d, and had a cordial reception from the High Priest, officers and Companions there.

At 7 P. M., paid a Grand Visitation to Tamaqua Chapter, No. 177. I delivered an address to the Chapter; the minutes were inspected, and a report thereon made by the Grand Secretary *pro tem.*, and the work was exemplified and instruction generally imparted, to the evident satisfaction of the Companions.

On the 23d of July, this being the day assigned for the constituting of a new Chapter at Ashland, the Grand Officers left Tamaqua in the morning, and, arriving at Ashland at 3 P. M., proceeded at once to the constituting of Griscom Chapter, No. 219, at that place, which was done in due and solemn form, and the officers installed by the Grand High Priest and his officers. On the conclusion of these ceremonies, the Grand Chapter closed; and, the new Chapter having been opened, a Grand Visitation in ample form was made to Griscom Chapter, No. 219, and the three degrees were conferred and the work exemplified by the Grand Officers until late at night. The Chapter then closed; and by the bounteous hospitality of Companion Washington Reifsnyder, District Deputy Grand High Priest, the Grand Officers and Companions were entertained at a most pleasant reunion at the Repplier House.

On July 24, the Grand Officers proceeded by way of Mount Carmel to Sunbury; where, at 7 P. M., a Grand Visitation was paid to Northumberland Chapter, No. 174.

In my address to this Chapter, their evident zeal and desire for advancement were noticed with pleasure; and at the same time some urgent advice was given on points developed by their minutes, an excellent report on which was made by Companion

J. Alexander Simpson, Grand Secretary *pro tem.*; one particularly of which has since been rectified by action of the Grand Chapter. Companion J. Kay Clement, now acting High Priest, (the High Priest elected for this year having resigned to join the new Chapter at Ashland,) is most assiduous in devoting his excellent talents to the prosperity of this old and honored Chapter, which, like many of the oldest Chapters we have visited, has heretofore somewhat languished from want of active supervision from the Grand Officers. Since this visitation I am informed that they have procured the necessary paraphernalia, in which the Chapter was deficient, and attended to the better security of their hall.

The work in all three degrees was then exemplified by the Grand Officers. Anxiety to learn and the strongest interest in and gratification at the instruction and information given was manifested by the officers and Companions generally; as indeed was the case with every one of the Chapters in these interesting districts of our jurisdiction.

On the 25th of July, we left Sunbury, and arrived at Catawissa, and were cordially welcomed by Companion Dr. J. K. Robins, District Deputy Grand High Priest, and other officers and Companions of the Chapter here. At 7 P. M., a Grand Visitation was made to Catawissa Chapter, No. 178. In my address to this Chapter, I adverted to some deficiencies in their furniture and room, and also some preliminary points in their work; all of which was most kindly received, and steps at once taken for rectification in all particulars. The report on the minutes of this old Chapter was, as usual, very interesting; and the Chapter evidently will hereafter exhibit strongly the benefit of this Grand Visitation. The three degrees were then fully exemplified by the Grand Officers. Sunday, July 26, was pleasantly passed as a day of rest among the Companions, and in attendance at church in Catawissa.

Monday, July 27, left Catawissa for Bloomsburg, to constitute the new Chapter there. We were most fraternally met at Bloomsburg by the Companions to form the new Chapter, Companion Clement and others, from Sunbury, and joined by District Deputy Grand High Priest Robins, and others, from Catawissa, and those of other Chapters more distant of the surrounding

country. At 3 o'clock P. M., the Grand Chapter was opened, and the Grand High Priest, assisted by his Grand Officers, proceeded to constitute the new Chapter, under the name of Bloomsburg Chapter, No. 220, in ample and solemn form. The High Priest was then installed by the Grand High Priest, and then the other officers of the new Chapter by the Grand Officers, in their respective stations. After an address, by me, of congratulation and advice, which was received with evidently much interest and attention, the Grand Chapter closed at 6 P. M. At 7 P. M., the new Chapter was opened in presence of the Grand Officers, and the three degrees were exemplified and conferred on three candidates by the Grand Officers. I then conferred the degree of High Priesthood on Companions Clement and Robinson, who were Past High Priests by election and service, but had not received the High Priest's degree. During all my official tours I have made it a rule to confer the High Priesthood on any Companion whom I find similarly circumstanced.

July 28, left Bloomsburg for a Grand Visitation to Valley Chapter, No. 214, at Plymouth, Luzerne county. We were met with cordial greeting at Plymouth by Companion E. C. Wadhams, High Priest of the Chapter, and others, and at 7 P. M. a Grand Visitation was made to Valley Chapter, No. 214. My address to this Chapter was attentively listened to, the minutes were carefully inspected, and an excellent report thereon made by the Grand Secretary *pro tem*. The new hall of this Chapter is spacious and handsome, and well adapted to its purpose. All the appointments are complete; and under the active vigilance and zeal of Companion Wadhams and his coadjutors, the other officers and Companions, this Chapter makes bright promise of doing great credit to our jurisdiction. The work was exemplified by the Grand Officers.

I then conferred the degree of High Priesthood on Companion Wadhams, High Priest of this Chapter, and also on Companion D. M. Hoyt, present High Priest of Shekinah Chapter, No. 132, at Wilkesbarre.

At the close of these labors, the Grand Officers participated in hospitalities offered by the Companions of Plymouth; and after midnight proceeded by private conveyance to Wilkesbarre, where we arrived and took lodgings at 1 A. M. of the 29th.

July 29, left Wilkesbarre for Mauch Chunk, to pay a Grand Visitation to Lilly Chapter, No. 181. We were here welcomed by Companion Past High Priest Lilly and the High Priest and officers of the Chapter, and at 7 P. M. paid a Grand Visitation to Lilly Chapter, No. 181.

This is a Chapter of long and excellent standing, and owes doubtless much of its strength to the zealous care and active liberality of the distinguished Companion whose name it bears, in connection with the other eminent men of the Craft for which this region is distinguished.

My address was received with favor and attention, and its suggestions acquiesced in by the Chapter. The Grand Secretary's report on the minutes was interesting; this being one of the old Chapters which had never before received a Grand Visitation.

The work was then exemplified by the Grand Officers.

The bearing and hospitalities of the Companions here, as everywhere, were most kind and courteous; and this being the last Chapter in this series of my Grand Visitations, we parted with the numerous assemblage of Companions who had congregated at Mauch Chunk to meet us, with pleasant retrospections of the uniform kindness, fraternal sympathy, and respectful attention which has characterized our reception by and intercourse with our Companions of each and every Chapter throughout this most interesting excursion.

Of the decided and great benefit of these Grand Visitations there can be no doubt. In every way they tend to the promotion and strengthening of the Order. The individual Chapters are by them animated with new life as it were; while the ties of confraternity between the officers of the Grand Chapter and the Companions residing near the official centre and those of the remote districts of our jurisdiction, are drawn closer and made stronger by the meeting face to face, and the personal social greetings and near acquaintance.

July 30, we left Mauch Chunk, and arrived home by way of Allentown and Bethlehem. District Deputy Grand High Priest Companion Dr. E. G. Martin, of Allentown, had joined the Grand Officers at Mauch Chunk; and, with his native warmth of heart and fraternal regard and interest, extended to the Grand Officers every assistance, as well as proffers of hospitality

in the town of his residence, which honor we could not then tarry to accept.

On the 10th of September, pursuant to a warrant granted by the Grand Chapter, a new Chapter, called Worthington Chapter, No. 220, and located at Fort Washington, Montgomery county, was constituted in solemn and ample form in this hall by me, assisted by my Grand Officers and a large assemblage of Past Grand High Priests and other Companions, a special meeting of the Grand Chapter being called for that purpose. At the conclusion of these ceremonies, I installed the High Priest of the new Chapter, Companion Joseph Rex, in his station, with the degree of High Priesthood; after which the King, Companion Newberry, and the Scribe, Companion Flick, were installed by the Grand King and Grand Scribe respectively, and the Treasurer by Companion Past Grand High Priest Lescure as Grand Treasurer *pro tem.*, and the Secretary by Companion John Thomson, Grand Secretary. The Mark degree was then exemplified, Companion Nisbet, Grand King, acting as Worshipful Master.

On the 1st of October, by invitation of Companion David B. Taylor, Grand Principal Sojourner, I, together with the Grand King and the Grand Marshal, accompanied him by his private conveyance to Fort Washington, and paid an informal visit to Worthington Chapter that evening. We found the new Chapter anxious to proceed with the work they had undertaken, and zealous in their efforts, which promise assured and entire success. I as Grand High Priest briefly addressed the Chapter in some remarks of practical instruction, and we returned to the city the same night.

On the 26th of October, I with my Grand Officers paid a semi-formal Grand Visitation to Germantown Chapter, No. 208, for the purpose of exemplification of the work, as well as interchange of fraternal salutations and regard. Our reception was fraternal, and the visit every way satisfactory. The work was exemplified, and the Mark and Most Excellent degrees were conferred.

On the 26th of November, a similar informal Grand Visitation was made to Philadelphia Chapter, No. 175, in this hall; being one of a series intended to include all the Chapters in this city, which it is my purpose to make at earliest opportunities.

The work in the Mark and Most Excellent degrees was exemplified by the Grand Officers.

On the 30th of November, pursuant to notice, I with my officers left this city on a Grand Visitation to Howell Chapter, No. 202, at West Chester.

This was the first meeting of this Chapter in their new hall, which is well arranged and appropriately furnished with all the requisite appointments. We were cordially received by Companion Dr. W. D. Hartmann, Most Excellent High Priest, and his officers and Companions; and were joined at West Chester by Companion C. M. Howell, District Deputy Grand High Priest from Lancaster. The Grand Visitation was made in ample form at 7 P. M. A numerous attendance of members and Companions from neighboring Chapters was present. My address to the Chapter was received with gratifying attention.

A report by Companion J. A. Simpson, Grand Secretary *pro tem.*, on the minutes, was read and ordered to be entered on record. The work was then exemplified, and the Mark Master and Most Excellent degrees conferred.

The Chapter was again opened, and again addressed by the Grand High Priest on the subject of their minutes, &c., and with deserved congratulations on their excellent Masonic spirit and strong and prosperous condition.

The Grand Officers returned home next day, highly gratified with the kind, fraternal and hospitable bearing toward them of the Companions of Howell Chapter, No. 202.

I am not without hope that during the ensuing year I may be enabled to extend the benefits of these Grand Visitations to such others of the Chapters of the interior as have never received a Grand Visitation; especially those on the borders of the southwestern and northwestern portions of the State, which, I am informed, are greatly in need of more attention from the Grand Chapter.

On the 2d of December, instant, after the meeting of the Grand Lodge that day, on the written application of Companions Pearson Church and J. M. Dick, Past High Priests of Solomon's Chapter, 191, at Meadville, to have the degree of High Priesthood conferred on them, I convened a council of Past High Priests in this hall, at half-past 7 o'clock in the evening, for that purpose. This meeting was attended by the Most Excellent Grand King, Grand Scribe, Companion J. A. Simpson as Grand Secretary, *pro tem.*, and a number of Past High Priests from various Chapters. After the opening of the Grand Chapter, a council of Past High Priests was formed, and the degree of High Priesthood was conferred by me on those Companions, and also upon Companion Robert Martin, Past High Priest of Chapter No. 186.

I have attended, whenever practicable, consistently with my health, this fall, at the annual elections of the several Chapters meeting in this hall, for the purpose of installing the High Priests elect, and in most cases the other officers. In the course of these visits I have installed and conferred the High Priest's degree on the chiefs elect of Chapters No. 3, 52, 91, 169, and 183; and whenever convenient, the other officers elect were also installed by the Grand High Priest and his officers.

I have, on frequent occasions during the year, visited the several Mark Master Masons' Lodges which meet in this hall, and have always been truly gratified with their excellent order and the evidences of their high prosperity. Some check has been given to this work by a late addition to the Constitution; but I have no doubt of their usefulness, and trust that the result will be a continuance of their healthful organization.

I have thus endeavored to give in a concise form a view of my labors and those of the Grand Officers and other Companions accomplished as teachers and exemplars of the work, which has been performed under my direction and sanction during the past Masonic year. It would not be proper to close this rapid sketch of these labors without mentioning further that, especially to the zealous devotion of my fellow elective Grand Officers, and

those acting by my appointment, one and all, and the Past Grand High Priests, who have always kindly responded to my call for assistance, is due much of the good that has been done in the way of instruction in the work of Companions from distant parts of my jurisdiction, who have, during the past year, either resorted to this city or sent for assistance for that purpose. At all times have these calls been cheerfully responded to; and, night or day, never have these Companions shrunk from the applications thus made to them. It has always seemed as a labor of love to them to impart their valuable knowledge to their Companions and brethren, and very many among those who are most zealous in the advancement of the Royal Art in the various distant districts of the State, as well as in Philadelphia, will testify to the large amount of good they have thus accomplished.

The system of meetings for instruction, rehearsal and practice of the work, recommended in my inaugural address, has been carried out to a profitable extent by the Grand Officers, as well as by the High Priests and officers of the subordinate Chapters, and bids fair to accomplish speedily, to a gratifying degree, that uniformity of work in our jurisdiction so much desired, and so essential to our true prosperity.

From the districts along the borders of the State, in the north, the west, the south and the east, much complaint has reached me of embarrassment caused by a disposition among Master Masons of this jurisdiction to go to the Chapters of the adjoining States for exaltation to the Royal Arch degree. I have uniformly discouraged the practice, and in all cases declined to give my assent when it has been asked for the purpose; as has in several instances been the case. I have courteously replied to written applications from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and also to the Secretary of Siloam Chapter, No. 19, in Camden, N. J., to the effect that, unless in case of urgent necessity, which should be clearly stated, no formal assent or permission could be given by the Grand High Priest of this jurisdiction to such proceeding.

Companion George Parton, District Deputy Grand High Priest for the Fifth District, having resigned that position on account of his private business, I appointed Companion D. M. Hoyt, of Wilkesbarre, in his place.

Reports have been made to me by several of my District Deputy Grand High Priests, setting forth the condition of the Chapters and the progress of the Craft within their respective districts; all, with the exception of one district, exhibiting an encouraging and gratifying view of the steady advancement of the Order. I have to state, however, with regret, that in a large majority of instances this important duty on the part of the District Deputy Grand High Priests has been omitted. I must therefore again strongly urge on the Companions holding that responsible and important position, the propriety and importance of their complying in future with that branch of their duties. To Companions Davage, of Pittsburg, Martin, of Allentown, Hoyt, of Wilkesbarre, and Dusenbury, of Great Bend, are due the thanks of the Grand High Priest, for their attention in this regard, and for their very interesting reports.

Should any of the District Deputies have sent reports not here mentioned, the omission will be gladly supplied.

The practice which prevails in many of the districts of the interior of the State of installing the High Priest elect without the conferring of the High Priest's degree, has given rise to much inconvenience, and should be remedied as far as possible. The difficulty of getting together a sufficient number of those of that degree is constantly increased by it; and in many instances confusion and embarrassment have arisen from the uncertainty among the Past High Priests themselves, after a long lapse of time, as to whether in particular instances the degree has been conferred or not. I have, on such case coming under my personal observation, in the exercise of the Grand High Priest's prerogative, dispelled the embarrassment by convening a council and conferring the degree forthwith on the Companion in doubt. It might be well that the Grand Chapter consider this subject with a view to any remedy of the practice which may be found practicable.

As already recited, under my administration during the past year there have been constituted, under warrants duly granted by the Grand Chapter, four new Chapters, three of which were constituted by me as Grand High Priest in person, assisted by my Grand Officers, and one at Alleghany City, by Companion Davage, District Deputy Grand High Priest, with the assistance of the Companions there, under a dispensation issued by me to him for that purpose, as before mentioned.

There are now within our jurisdiction in the State of Pennsylvania sixty-three Chapters, all in working condition, and fulfilling their important functions in peace, harmony and prosperity.

The number of members in these Chapters by last report to the Grand Secretary for 1867 was 5,020. There are three Mark Lodges, with a total membership then of 2,807.

The Most Excellent Grand Secretary's report will exhibit in proper detail the number of exaltations and general condition of each Chapter up to their last returns.

The report of the Most Excellent Grand Treasurer shows a prosperous condition of the finances of the Grand Chapter. I would suggest that, if practicable, an arrangement should be made, by contract with the Grand Lodge, to give the Grand Chapter some control regarding the occupancy of its room in this building.

While it is thus seen that prosperity, peace and harmony reign throughout our borders, and that in our jurisdiction the advancement of our beloved Order is steadily onward in healthy and satisfactory progress, I have the great pleasure to state that, beyond our borders, the relations of our Grand Chapter with those of other jurisdictions have been of uninterrupted concord and the most fraternal and cordial friendship.

The report of our Committee of Correspondence will set forth in detail more particularly the character and incidents of those relations, in a narrative which will be received with great interest by the Companions.

I cannot but repeat an expression of my grateful feeling toward the Companions of this Grand Chapter, one and all, for the kind forbearance with which they have looked over my deficiencies, the fraternal support they have always extended to me, and the high honor they have conferred in re-electing me to the supreme station of Grand High Priest of this great and illustrious jurisdiction.

In conclusion, I have to repeat that we have abundant cause for gratitude to the Supreme Divine Ruler over the destinies of men, for the good He has thus far permitted to be accomplished through our noble institution, and of cheerfulness and joy at the prospect of the future advancement of its benign influences.

A spirit of charity and brotherly love, of mutual forbearance and kindness, has marked all our intercourse; and we enter on the labors and the pleasures of fraternal intercourse of another Masonic year, with strengthened hope and faith in the fulfilment of our mission of universal charity.

After which the Most Excellent Grand High Priest was pleased to announce the following appointments for the year beginning Saint John's Day, December 27, 1869:

Comp. JOHN WILSON, JR.,	.	.	<i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i>
" DAVID B. TAYLOR,	.	.	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" GEORGE J. BECKER,	.	.	<i>Grand Royal Arch Captain.</i>
" WILLIAM J. KELLY,	.	.	<i>Grand Master Third Vail.</i>
" ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	.	.	<i>Grand Master Second Vail.</i>
" JOHN S. STEVENS,	.	.	<i>Grand Master First Vail.</i>
" EDWARD MASSON,	.	.	<i>Grand Marshal.</i>
" R. L. LEE,	.	.	<i>S. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
" HORACE FRITZ,	.	.	<i>J. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
" A. C. IRELAND,	.	.	<i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
" CHARLES SCHNIDER,	.	.	<i>Grand Tyler.</i>

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Reverend Companion JOHN CHAMBERS,
 “ “ JOSEPH J. ELSEGOOD,
 “ “ DANIEL WASHBURN.
 “ “ JOSEPH CASTLE,
 “ “ JAMES MCGOWAN,
 “ “ ROBERT H. PATTISON,
 “ “ W. C. ROBINSON.

COMMITTEE ON WORK.

Comp. JOSEPH S. RILEY, Comp. DANIEL THOMPSON,
 “ DAVID C. SKERRETT, “ ROBERT FRAZER,
 Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Comp. EDWARD P. LESCURE, Comp. THOMAS D. WATTSON,
 “ JAMES SIMPSON, “ CONRAD B. DAY,
 Comp. JOHN R. MANDERFIELD, Jr.

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. SAMUEL C. PERKINS, Comp. J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON,
 “ CHARLES GILPIN, “ JAMES B. VAN OSTEN,
 Comp. LEMUEL STEVENS.

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD, Comp. HENRY J. WHITE,
 “ JOHN BEENKEN, “ ALFRED T. JONES,
 Comp. ALFRED R. POTTER.

COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

Comp. JER. L. HUTCHINSON, Comp. WILLIAM T. TAYLOR,
 “ ALEX. KIRKPATRICK, “ JAMES W. VAN OSTEN,
 Comp. THOMAS STILLMAN.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.

- 1—Companion CHARLES M. HOWELL,
of Lancaster, for the Counties of Lancaster, York, Dauphin and Lebanon.
- 2—Companion ROBERT H. THOMAS,
of Mechanicsburg, for the Counties of Cumberland, Franklin, Adams and Perry.
- 3—Companion WASHINGTON REIFSNYDER,
of Ashland, for the Counties of Schuylkill and Berks.
- 4—Companion EDWIN G. MARTIN, M. D.,
of Allentown, for the Counties of Carbon, Northampton and Lehigh.
- 5—Companion HENRY M. HOYT,
of Wilkesbarre, for the Counties of Luzerne, Pike, Monroe and Wayne.
- 6—Companion JOHN H. DUSENBURY,
of Great Bend, for the Counties of Susquehanna, Sullivan and Wyoming.
- 7—Companion W. A. PECK,
of Towanda, for the Counties of Bradford, Tioga and Potter.
- 8—Companion JOHN K. ROBINS,
of Catawissa, for the Counties of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union and Snyder.
- 9—Companion MICHAEL B. HERING,
of Lock Haven, for the Counties of Lycoming, Clinton and Centre.
- 10—Companion J. KING McLANAHAN,
of Hollidaysburg, for the Counties of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Bedford and Fulton.
- 11—Companion JAMES C. ACHESON,
of Washington, for the Counties of Washington, Fayette, Greene and Somerset.
- 12—Companion JOSEPH H. HOPKINS,
of Pittsburg, for the Counties of Alleghany, Westmoreland, Beaver, Armstrong, Butler and Indiana.
- 13—Companion WILLIAM C. HAY,
of Meadville, for the Counties of Crawford, Lawrence, Mercer and Erie.
- 14—Companion M. W. SAGE,
of Franklin, for the Counties of Warren, McKean, Forrest, Jefferson, Elk, Clarion and Venango.

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, February 4, A. D. 1869, A. I. 2399.

The Finance Committee presented their Annual Report, as follows: the report being approved and the accompanying resolution adopted:

*To the
Most Excellent Grand High Priest
and Companions of the
Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:*

Your Finance Committee respectfully report that they have examined the accounts of the Grand Treasurer, for the year 1868, and found them correct, with a balance in his hands, July 1, 1869, of \$1,113.71, as per following statement, to wit:

Received for warrants and dues from Chapters and	
Mark Lodges,	\$4,320 83
Interest on bonds,	139 20
Premium on gold,	35 83
From John Thomson, for Constitutions sold.	49 02
<hr/>	
Total receipts,	\$4,544 88
Balance on hand, January 1, 1868.	1,882 94
<hr/>	
Total,	\$6,427 82

Brought forward, \$6,427 82

Per Contra.

Invested in Masonic Loan,	\$1,500 00
Expenses of Grand High Priest,	1,052 50
" District Deputies,	182 18
Salary of Grand Secretary,	250 00
" Assistant Grand Secretary,	200 00
Bill of Grand Tyler, Wm. B. Schnider,	50 00
" " " Chas. Schnider,	71 00
Paid for stationery,	34 95
" W. A. Maas, for printing,	9 25
" for blank warrants for Chapters,	30 10
" Horstman Bros. & Co., for regalia,	1,021 63
" King & Baird, for printing,	635 30
" John Bolt, sundry bills,	21 62
" J. C. Hunter, for gas-fitting,	17 25
" F. H. Watt, for trunk,	35 00
" W. F. Sheble, for stencil plate,	3 13
" exchange on draft,	20
" Margaret L. Schnider, gratuity,	200 00
Total,	<u>\$5,314 11</u>
Balance in Treasurer's hands, January 1, 1869,	<u>\$1,113 71</u>

The Finance Committee also examined the accounts of the Grand Secretary, and found them correct, showing that he had received during the past year,

For certificates and Constitutions, the sum of	\$44 00
Paid for postage, etc.,	\$2 28
Leaving a balance in his hands, Dec. 31, of	41 72
	<u>\$44 00</u>

The Grand Treasurer, Companion Williamson, has in charge the following securities belonging to the Grand Chapter, to wit:

No. 20,491, Certificate old City Loan,	. . . . .	\$1,000
No. 62,819, U. S. Coupon Bond,	. . . . .	1,000
No. 7,954, U. S. Coupon Bond,	. . . . .	500
		<hr/>
		\$2,500

which should be sold and the proceeds invested in the Grand Lodge Masonic Loan.

Resolved, That the Finance Committee be authorized to sell the above-described securities and invest the proceeds in the Masonic Loan of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary holds the following securities, placed in his hands for safe-keeping :

No. 17, Certificate Grand Lodge Loan dated March 1,		
1868; subscribed for, July 25, 1867,	. . . . .	\$1,000
No. 42, Certificate Grand Lodge Loan dated March 1,		
1868; subscribed for, January 2, 1868,	. . . . .	1,000
No. 48, Certificate Grand Lodge Loan dated March 1,		
1868; subscribed for, February 19, 1868,	. . . . .	500
		<hr/>
Total amount of securities in care of Grand Secretary,	. . . . .	\$2,500

The Grand Secretary also holds interest due up to September, 1868, not drawn, \$22 09

Respectfully submitted.

E. P. LESCURE,

A. C. IRELAND,

CONRAD B. DAY,

Committee.

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.



QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, August 5, A. D. 1869, A. I. 2399.

At this Grand Quarterly Communication the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, in answer to Past Grand High Priest Companion Wood, decided "That, in all cases, Chapters must open in the Royal Arch degree before proceeding to work; and after conferring the Mark or Most Excellent degree, the Chapter must be re-opened in the Arch, before closing for the evening."

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Held at Philadelphia, November 4, A. D. 1869, A. I. 2399.

This being the period fixed by the Constitution for the election of Grand Officers, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest appointed Companions Wood, Hutchinson and Lescure, Past Grand High Priests, tellers.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion George Griscom, declining a re-election, addressed the Grand Chapter, as follows:

COMPANIONS:

Honored for two successive terms, by the unanimous suffrages of my Companions of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, with the station of supreme command in this great jurisdiction, it is with profound emotion that I now announce my desire and purpose to relinquish the office, and that I decline being a candidate for re-election in the balloting that is now about to take place.

This emotion arises from several causes, not the least of which is the sense of obligation and gratitude for the generosity with which I have ever been supported and cheered amidst the severest of the difficulties and responsibilities of so exalted position.

My Companions must take my good-will and my gratitude for their kindness, as all the compensation I can offer for my past deficiencies, and with the tender of my best efforts for the future, to promote the interests of Royal Arch Masonry in our jurisdiction, be assured of my most sincere regard and fraternal affection for every member of this Grand Chapter, and of the Order.

With my Companions who were elected with me to the other chief stations, and those who have held the various places under my appointment, I have ever held the most fraternal, the most harmonious, and the most pleasant relations. I now, on the approach of the hour of our official separation, give them, one and all, my most hearty acknowledgments for the able support, the kind forbearance, and the uniform courtesy and kindness I have ever experienced from them.

I expect to have the pleasure, at the next Grand Communication, to present to the Grand Chapter a brief but clear account of my labors as Grand High Priest during the past Masonic year; and, for the present, I therefore have only to repeat the assurance of grateful emotions that cannot be expressed in words on this occasion of announcing my approaching retirement.

Before the end of my official term, it is still my purpose, as announced by me to the Grand Chapter and to my District Deputy Grand High Priests at the beginning of the present year, to pay formal Grand Visitations to the several Chapters which have never as yet been visited by the Grand High Priest, along the southern section of the State; commencing on the first day with Lancaster and Columbia, and proceeding by the way of Harrisburg through the Cumberland Valley, and westward as far as Altoona, and such other points as may be deemed advisable. This so long-promised duty has been delayed thus far by circumstances beyond my control, but I now have every hope of being able to issue my programme for the journey to the different Chapters in the course of the present month.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election; and the tellers reported that the following-named Companions had been duly elected to the respective offices, viz.:

Comp. MICHAEL NISBET,	. . .	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
“ CHARLES EUGENE MEYER,	. . .	“ <i>Grand King.</i>
“ JOHN WILSON, JR.,	. . .	“ <i>Grand Scribe.</i>
“ PETER WILLIAMSON,	. . .	“ <i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON,	. . .	“ <i>Grand Secretary.</i>

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Philadelphia, December 27, A. D. 1869, A. I. 2399.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest. Companion George Griscom, made the following excellent parting address to the Companions:

COMPANIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER:

One of the most important as well as interesting duties of the Annual Convocation of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, on Saint John's day, is that which devolves upon its presiding Chief, the Grand High Priest, to give to the Companions a report of his administration, and some account of the condition of the Order within his jurisdiction during the past Masonic year.

In the performance of this duty on the present occasion, I am impressed with very pleasant emotions, and at the same time with feelings almost approaching to embarrassment.

The reminiscence of delightful association with my Companions and brethren in every branch of the Fraternity fills me with gratitude and satisfaction; while a consciousness of my inability to make this performance of my duty come up to the standard of my wishes, oppresses me with a feeling of hesitation to approach it.

One cause of this latter feeling is the brief time permitted for the preparation of this annual statement, owing to the necessity of waiting for the reports of the Committee on Correspondence

and of my District Deputies, many of which latter have come in within the last few days, and some few of which have not even yet been received, although they are doubtless on the way.

The duties and responsibilities of the Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania are all important, diversified and extensive. They include a supervision of the whole of this great jurisdiction, reaching through every quarter of the broad domain of our Commonwealth. Throughout this great field he has sole and absolute sway, unlimited except by the expressed provisions of the Constitution. Over this vast brotherhood of Companions of the Royal Art, and this great sisterhood of subordinate Chapters, it is his duty to keep a constant and a vigilant care. He must counsel, direct and guide, as well as correct, command and control them in every phase of their multifarious interests and proceedings. He must attend to their requests, rectify their errors, decide doubtful questions, give them aid and instruction in the work on all practicable occasions, and during his term personally visit every Chapter, as far as is in his power.

A thorough and earnest discharge of this office involves great personal sacrifice, and absolutely requires the power of considerable physical endurance.

During the two years of my administration, the evidences of prosperity and strength in our institution have continued steadily to increase. Sound Masonic principles have everywhere prevailed, and the exalted standard established and required by the sacred character of our holy Order has been well and nobly sustained.

The zeal and activity of the Companions have been tempered by a wholesome regard to those elevated and sacred principles; and, as a general rule, with a view to the preservation of harmony and fraternal love, rather than to a show merely of numerical strength.

From this standpoint, as well as in regard to its benign influence on the general community, a view of the onward progress of our Order, and its steadily increasing strength in this jurisdiction, is as interesting as it is truly gratifying.

In the course of a resumé of my labors of the year 1869, I

shall endeavor to lay before the Grand Chapter a view of the present condition of Royal Arch Masonry within its jurisdiction, so far as my own experience and observation, and the reports of my Deputies and Committees, will enable me to give. During the early part of the present year, I attended in my official capacity all the Chapters meeting in this hall, and also the Chapter at Germantown. On the 22d and 27th of January, I called my Grand Officers together, preparatory to semi-formal Grand Visitations in succession to all the Chapters and Mark Lodges of Philadelphia, to commence in February, for instruction and inspection of their condition and work, as well as for fraternal greeting and communion with the Companions.

February 5, I paid Grand Visitation to Harmony Chapter, No. 52, when the Mark degree was exemplified and conferred in full by the Grand Officers.

February 17, visited Columbia Chapter, No. 91, when Most Excellent degree and Royal Arch were exemplified and conferred in full on six; and the Order of High Priesthood on Companion James P. Salmon, High Priest of Lilly Chapter, No. 181, by Grand High Priest.

February 18, Grand Visitation to Oriental Chapter, No. 183. Most Excellent and Royal Arch degrees exemplified and conferred in full on six.

February 16, Grand Visitation to Philadelphia Chapter, No. 169. Royal Arch degree exemplified and conferred in full on three.

February 22, Grand Visitation to Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3. Exemplification and conferred Most Excellent on six, and Royal Arch degree on three.

February 25, Grand Visitation to Keystone Chapter, No. 175. Most Excellent degree on four, and Royal Arch degree on three.

March 8, Grand Visitation to Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91. Mark degree exemplified.

March 9, Grand Visitation to Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214. Mark degree exemplified.

March 16, Grand Visitation to Excelsior Mark Lodge, No. 216. Mark degree conferred on four.

A visit to Germantown Chapter, No. 208, was productive of much gratification to myself and the Grand Officers who accom-

panied me; and the condition of that excellent and promising Chapter was found to be quite satisfactory, and the exemplification of the work and instructions by Grand Officers were received with much attention.

These visits were all in every way satisfactory, harmonious and gratifying. The exemplification of the work by the Grand Officers was received with much attention, and the Grand Officers were welcomed with that cordial courtesy and fraternal spirit which belongs to the true Royal Arch Mason and to the truly regulated Chapter.

March 22, on a visit to Chapter No. 3, I decided that, to enable a Chapter outside of Philadelphia to receive application for and confer the Chapter degrees on an applicant residing in Philadelphia, the consent of all the Chapters in the city must first be had. Of this I notified Worthington Chapter, No. 220, at Fort Washington, where, as I was informed, a number of applicants from the city had been elected.

June 24, 3 P. M., I opened a Grand Chapter at this hall, and constituted Oxford Chapter, No. 223, located at Oxford, Chester county, and Corinthian Chapter, No. 224, at Columbia, Lancaster county; and the officers thereof were duly installed by the Grand High Priest, assisted by the Grand Officers.

July 26, I went with my Grand Officers to Tremont, Schuylkill county, and at 3 P. M., opened the Grand Chapter, and constituted Tremont Chapter, No. 221, and installed its officers. At 7 P. M., opened the Chapter, and the Grand Officers exemplified the work, conferring Mark degree on eight, Most Excellent on six, and Royal Arch on three. I delivered an address to the new Chapter, and then conferred the High Priest degree on the High Priest of Chapter at Minersville.

July 27, returned home.

August 5, at the Quarterly Grand Communication, I decided that a Chapter must first be opened in ancient form, and that after closing of the Chapter, to open a Mark or Most Excellent Lodge, the Chapter must be reopened before final closing for the eve-

ning, and both in short way; and that the final closing must be in ancient and ample form. Ordered this decision to be printed, and sent to all the Chapters in the jurisdiction.

August 19, I sent a dispensation to my District Deputy, Most Excellent Companion Robert H. Thomas, to reorganize George Washington Chapter, No. 176, at Chambersburg, the work of which had been suspended ever since 1863, their warrant never having been surrendered or withdrawn, and the Grand Chapter having remitted their dues. This duty was duly performed, and Companion Thomas' report thereof filed.

November 5, a Grand Chapter of Instruction was held at this hall by my order. I greatly regret having been compelled to be absent during most of the proceedings on this occasion. I am under deep obligation to Companion Michael Nisbet, Most Excellent Grand King, who took my place as Grand High Priest for the time, and to Companion C. E. Meyer, Most Excellent Grand Scribe, who acted as Grand King, and to Companion Edward Masson, who acted as Grand Scribe, as well as to the other Grand Officers and Companions, who assisted at this Grand Chapter of Instruction. A clear and excellent report, made to me by Companion Nisbet, shows that this was an interesting occasion, and productive of much satisfaction to the Grand Officers, as well as benefit to the Companions who attended for the reception of instructions in the Chapter degrees, which were all three, in an excellent and satisfactory manner, exemplified.

Companion Nisbet's report is a model for the proceedings on such an occasion, and I recommend that it be filed, that the Grand Chapter may have the benefit of it for reference as such.

In accordance with my announcement to the Grand Chapter at the beginning of the present year, and with the system which met its approval last year of Grand Visitations in ample form to the subordinate Chapters in the interior, I proceeded, with the Most Excellent Grand King and Grand Scribe, and a corps of appointed Grand Officers, on the 6th of the present month, on a tour of Grand Visitations to such of the subordinate Chapters in the southern and middle Districts of the State as had never before received a Grand Visitation.

The Chapters which were included in this series of Grand Visitations are—

Perseverance Chapter...	No. 21.....	Harrisburg.
Weidle Chapter	No. 197.....	Lebanon.
Samuel C. Perkins Chapter...	No. 229.....	Mechanicsburg.
Chapter.....	No. 156.....	Carlisle.
George Washington Chapter...	No. 176.....	Chambersburg.
Standing Stone Chapter.....	No. 201.....	Huntingdon.
Lewistown Chapter.....	No. 186.....	Lewistown.
Mountain Chapter.....	No. 189.....	Altoona.
Mount Moriah Chapter.....	No. 166.....	Hollidaysburg.
Portage Chapter.....	No. 195.....	Johnstown.
Urania Chapter.....	No. 192.....	Greensburg.
Lycoming Chapter.....	No. 222.....	Williamsport.
La Fayette Chapter.....	No. 163.....	Lock Haven.
Chapter.....	No. 218.....	Bloomsburg.
Chapter.....	No. 43.....	Lancaster.
Corinthian Chapter.....	No. 224.....	Columbia.
Howell Chapter	No. 199.....	York.

By my circular issued on November 19, to all the High Priests and Secretaries of the Chapters above named, and to all my District Deputies, these Grand Visitations were arranged and held, respectively, as follows :

Monday, December 6—Leave Philadelphia, 11.40 A. M., arrive at Harrisburg at 4.15. Grand Visitation at 6 P. M., to Chapters of Harrisburg, Lebanon, Mechanicsburg, Carlisle and Chambersburg, and exemplify the work.

Tuesday, December 7—9 A. M., exemplify work at Harrisburg. 12.45 P. M., leave Harrisburg and arrive at Huntingdon at 5.40 P. M. 6.30 P. M., Grand Visitation to Chapters of Huntingdon and Lewistown, and exemplify the work.

Wednesday, December 8—9 A. M., exemplify work at Huntingdon. 12.32 P. M., leave Huntingdon and arrive at Altoona at 2.20 P. M. 4 P. M., exemplify work. 6.30 P. M., Grand Visitation to Chapters of Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Johnstown and Greensburg, and exemplify work.

Thursday, December 9—7.30 A. M., leave Altoona; arrive at Williamsport at 2 P. M. 4 P. M., exemplify work. 6.30 P. M., Grand Visitation to Chapters of Williamsport, Lock Haven and Bloomsburg, and exemplify work.

Friday, December 10—7.50 A. M., leave Williamsport; arrive

at Lancaster, 1.45 P. M. 3 P. M., exemplify work. 6 P. M., Grand Visitation to Chapters of Lancaster, Columbia and York, and exemplify work.

Saturday, December 11—9 A. M., exemplify work at Lancaster. 1.35 P. M., leave Lancaster and arrive at Philadelphia, 4.15.

This programme was carried out to its fullest extent.

On each of these occasions I addressed the Chapter with such remarks as were deemed apposite to its condition, and the exemplification of the work in all the degrees proceeded and was performed in the most thorough manner by the Grand Officers. Instruction on every point required was given, and every defect in the state of preparation of their halls, paraphernalia or their records pointed out and ordered to be rectified.

The attendance on every occasion was good, and the instruction given was received with gladness and cheerful acquiescence in all cases.

Their books of minutes, none of which ever before had been inspected by the Grand Chapter, were carefully examined; and the excellent reports thereon made by acting Grand Secretary Companion J. Alexander Simpson are of exceeding value, and will be read with interest by the members of the Grand Chapter.

In all cases where there were candidates, the Chapter degrees were conferred on them in full by the Grand Officers; and where newly elected officers were ready, they were duly installed by the Grand High Priest, assisted by the Grand Officers.

The Grand Officers were everywhere received with enthusiastic welcome, and the lively interest which was excited by their presence throughout the tour was most gratifying.

Everywhere the expression was universal of joy at the opportunity for instruction, and satisfaction at the information and instruction received.

It was constantly evident that new life and vigor were infused into the Order wherever we went; and the incalculable benefit of this system of intercommunication between the Grand Chapter and its subordinate Chapters was most strikingly evident throughout.

The Grand Officers returned home in the regular order of the programme from Lancaster, on Saturday, December 11, having gone through my plan in the most thorough and satisfactory

manner, and without any accident or impediment to mar the regularity of the proceedings.

In carrying out so large an amount of work in so short a period as six days, I am under most important obligations to the President and Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, through the cordially kind attention of Companion H. J. Lombaert, Vice-President, and to Superintendents Williams, Franciscus and Black, and the other officers of that Company who acted by their instructions, for the excellent arrangements made by them for our accommodation by a separate car, and in one case a special engine for our use, and connecting arrangements which obviated all material delay.

Our thanks are also emphatically due to the officers of the several Chapters, and my District Deputy Grand High Priests, and many other distinguished Companions who came long distances to meet us, and to the Companions generally of the Chapters named, for the warm-hearted reception we everywhere received, and the fraternal co-operation and assistance they uniformly extended to the Grand High Priest and his officers.

As I have before remarked to the Grand Chapter, to the extension of the system, inaugurated a few years ago, of Grand Visitations by the Grand High Priest and his officers, to the subordinate Chapters throughout the State, instead of its restriction as formerly almost entirely to the Chapters in and around the commercial metropolis, we are indebted for the most gratifying results.

These Grand Visitations tend to the drawing together more closely, and keeping in healthy warmth and activity, those social and fraternal relations between the Grand Chapter and its subordinate members so essential to the well-being and the usefulness of both.

They give the benefits of more intimate association and closer interchange of those feelings and principles of fraternity which form at once the delight and the strength of our organization.

The personal intercourse, the social cordiality, the fraternal hand so freely and unreservedly extended, draw more closely and more effectively the Masonic tie which binds us together by its solemn behests; and the relations between the Grand Officers and their Companions throughout the State are thus made more

satisfactory and mutually helpful and beneficial. Beside these moral, intellectual and social influences, there is another object of this system with respect to which its effects have been and are of the very highest importance regarding the governmental polity and more especially what, in strictness of Masonic phrase, is called the Work of the Order.

UNIFORMITY IN THE WORK has ever been esteemed by the Grand Chapter a point of the highest importance, and its establishment among the Craft of this jurisdiction has been one of the objects to which our constant and most earnest efforts have been aimed. In this effort I have been most zealously and effectively seconded and sustained by my two associate chiefs of the Grand Chapter, and by my Grand Officers, one and all, as well as by the Past Grand High Priests and Companions generally. For this we have labored unceasingly and untiringly, at all seasons and in all places. Let it be understood that these labors have not been for the introduction of "change" or the establishment of any thing new in the work. We have applied ourselves, first, to ascertain with certainty and accuracy what the ancient Pennsylvania Work was and is; and, second, having found and established that as a standard, to apply it to all our practice and to see to it that it is adopted and strictly adhered to in all the Chapters.

There are collateral forms, also, essential to the effective working of our ritual, and the beautiful simplicity of our ceremonies, which the Grand Chapter has deemed it proper to supervise; and, wherever departed from, to re-establish on the true and ancient basis.

These forms and ceremonies it has been our purpose to keep as they were of old established, and free from innovation or change, as far as is in our power.

The proximity to other jurisdictions of the Chapters and Companions who dwell along our borders especially subjects them to the difficulty arising from easy introduction of innovations.

While always entertaining and cherishing the highest fraternal regard for our Companions in the Royal Art of our sister jurisdictions, and the utmost respect for their systems, and the formula and ceremonies which accompany their rituals and their Chapter work, it is equally incumbent upon us to sustain, by

every means in our power, the integrity of the good old system which has been adhered to from the beginning of Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania, and which has given to our jurisdiction a character for solidity as well as beauty of work which is recognized with respect throughout the Masonic world.

The result of these labors is, that throughout our borders are seen evidences of increasing zeal, assiduity and devotion to the interests of Royal Arch Masonry; and from every quarter come up constantly evidences of a determination to acquire and to maintain our work in its purity and original strength.

We now see throughout our jurisdiction, not only numerical and financial prosperity among the numerous Chapters, but moral strength, social power and beneficent influence in the general community: the results of the advancement of the Royal Art throughout the wide domain of our Commonwealth.

Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania has, within the ten years last past, advanced by rapid strides to a condition which assures for it the position of a leading power in the Commonwealth of Free Masonry around the globe.

The practice which had long prevailed along our borders of Master Masons of this State going to other jurisdictions to receive the Chapter degrees has been checked, and I believe effectually abolished, by my exertions, aided by my District Deputies, especially in the northern and western districts. In this work I am indebted to the cordial co-operation of Right Worshipful Grand Master Richard Vaux, who instructed his Deputies to aid me in every way.

Another impediment to the progress of our Order was occasioned by a regulation of the Grand Lodge, by which a personal examination by the District Deputy was made a prerequisite to the passing of the Chair. This, in many cases, necessitated a long journey, and constantly made inconvenience and delay.

At my request, the Right Worshipful Grand Master has most kindly and promptly modified that order, and instructed his Deputies that a recommendation from the Master of the Lodge where the applicant belongs shall be sufficient to warrant the passing of an applicant to the Chair.

The increased amount of fee for passing the Chair is also assigned as a serious cause of impediment to the progress of Royal Arch Masonry; and has been generally spoken of with regret on that account, by the Companions of the interior especially.

I suggest these matters for the consideration of the Grand Chapter, that such action may be taken thereon as in its wisdom may be deemed expedient.

I have, through the whole of my administration as Grand High Priest, made it a rule, as mentioned in my last annual address, during my Grand Visitations, to confer the degree of High Priesthood on all such Past High Priests as I found had been installed without it; and my instructions have uniformly been that, in future, the installation of a High Priest must always be accompanied by a conferring on him of the High Priest's degree.

The difficulty, in a few districts complained of, of getting together the necessary number of Companions of that degree to form a council of Past High Priests, is not sufficient to excuse its omission. The great looseness of practice that has prevailed is productive of far more harm to the welfare of the whole Order than the slight trouble or delay could possibly be to the particular Chapter.

During my Grand Visitations in the interior, I have found that the receiving of applications and conferring of the Chapter degrees on candidates as "sojourners" has prevailed to such an extent as in some Chapters to have become the general rule, instead of, as it ought to be, the exception to their general practice. This undue prevalence of that practice I have constantly made every effort to restrain; and I have every reason to believe that my instructions have been always attended to and obeyed.

What is to be deemed an "emergency," within the meaning of the Constitution, is left by that instrument entirely to the judgment of the Chapter, where the application is made, to decide. This is a delicate and important duty for the Chapter, and should, in all cases, be most carefully and cautiously exercised.

In the performance of my duty on this occasion, I am again under the disadvantage of having had no report from the Committee on Correspondence during either the present or the last two preceding Masonic years.

This duty has generally heretofore been so irregularly attended to, that the Grand Chapter has become accustomed to the omission; but the detriment to its interests and the duty we owe to other Grand Chapters is none the less, and what would be a very interesting part of our annual proceedings is thus left a void. This void, however, I feel assured, will not long continue.

This omission, on the present occasion, must be ascribed to the employment of the accomplished and distinguished Chairman of that Committee, during a portion of the year, in foreign travel; and we are consoled by the reflection that his report, when it shall be made, will be all the more instructive and interesting from the very cause which has produced its delay.

I cannot but express the hope that the Companion who has undertaken to perform that duty will long continue in the position he is so eminently qualified to adorn; and that the Grand Chapter will have the benefit of the preparation he has been already enabled to make, for a report on our Foreign Correspondence. -

The resolution of the Grand Chapter to have the proceedings of last year printed has not as yet been complied with; the Grand Officers having concluded to await the report of the Committee on Correspondence, and then have the proceedings of this year as well as those of last year go into one pamphlet.

A brief statistical statement will amply confirm the encouraging views I have expressed of the progress and condition of Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania; and will doubtless be received with interest by the Companions throughout the jurisdiction.

There are now within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, and in full communion with this Grand Chapter, sixty-nine subordinate Chapters in full working condition.

The number of Companions in actual membership, as shown by the returns up to Saint John's day, 1868, was 5,553.

The number of members comparatively shown by the last two annual reports is as follows :

1867, Total number of members,	.	.	.	5,073
1868, " " "	.	.	.	5,553
Increase,	.	.	.	<u>480</u>

The report for 1869, which has to await the returns from the Chapters, will doubtless exhibit a still larger ratio of increase.

The total numbers of Chapters and of Mark Lodges, and the total of membership, will be given in full, up to the end of 1869, in time for the next printing of our proceedings, now in course of preparation.

The number and locations of new Chapters constituted during the two years last past, being the whole period of my administration, is ten. Of these, five were constituted in 1868, and five since last Saint John's day. With their numbers, dates and locations, they are as follow :

No. 216,	constituted	January 30,	1868,	Bethlehem,	Northampton county.
No. 217,	"	February,	"	Alleghany City,	Alleghany county.
No. 218,	"	July 25,	"	Bloomsburg,	Columbia county.
No. 219,	"	July 23,	"	Ashland,	Schuylkill county.
No. 220,	"	September 10,	"	Fort Washington,	Montgomery co.
No. 221,	"	July 26,	1869,	Tremont,	Schuylkill county.
No. 222,	"	March 11,	"	Williamsport,	Lycoming county.
No. 223,	"	June 24,	"	Columbia,	Lancaster county.
No. 224,	"	June 24,	"	Oxford,	Chester county.
No. 225,	"	October 7,	"	Brookeville,	Jefferson county.

In addition to these a warrant was granted, November 29, 1869, for Siloam Chapter, No. 226, at Frankford, which will be constituted by my successor.

Of these new Chapters, seven were constituted by me as Grand High Priest in person, assisted on each occasion by the Grand King and Grand Scribe and a requisite number of the appointed Grand Officers, and their officers duly installed.

The other three were constituted, and their officers duly installed, under commissions regularly dispensed by me to my Deputies of the districts respectively where located, who in each case have made due returns of their proceedings, all of which are duly recorded and filed.

By the Grand Treasurer's report, it will be seen that the income of the Grand Chapter for the past year was \$10,279.98; and that while the balance in the treasury on the 1st January, 1869, was \$1,113.71, the balance now on hand is \$1,544.71.

A number of the distant Chapters are, and some have been for many years, in arrears of their dues to the Grand Chapter. These accounts the Grand Secretary has long been engaged in endeavoring to have settled; and I recommend that the Chapters thus circumstanced be notified, without further delay, according to the Constitution, so that such irregularity may no longer continue.

The condition of the Grand Chapter was never more prosperous and satisfactory than it is at this present close of the Masonic year. The new regalia and various repairs to the furniture have been provided and duly attended to. A new Bible, of durable and beautiful construction, has been provided, under the supervision of Past Grand High Priest Companion George W. Wood, of the Committee appointed for that purpose; and nothing has been neglected to promote the comfort and due accommodation of the Grand Chapter, and the various subordinate Chapters and Mark Lodges meeting in this hall.

I need not advert to the well-known and unprecedented prosperity of these Chapters. Their strength in numbers has wonderfully increased; and, what is better, their prosperity and harmony and high Masonic character and standing have been steadily maintained. Harmony and happiness reign throughout their membership, and the conduct of the Craft in general has been in accordance with the beautiful and sacred vows and behests and obligations of our holy Order.

I am happy to say that my instructions of last year to my District Deputies to make at least one annual report, in writing, of the condition of the Chapters, and the state of Royal Arch Masonry within their several districts, has, this year, more generally been responded to, and in every case in an able, interesting and satisfactory manner. These reports show an amount of zeal and efficient ability on the part of those Companions which reflects great credit on them and honor on the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

To recapitulate the many points of interest and importance they suggest and explain would too far extend this address. I have therefore concluded to append these reports in a supplement, that the Grand Chapter may have on its records, accessible to all the Companions, an exposition of the condition of affairs among its subordinates in the interior and throughout the jurisdiction, in a form which, although now novel, will, if the system is properly pursued, be found of great value and most beneficial.

I hope, also, before the printing of this address, to be able to append to it a report from the present Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the last two years, which will be of great interest to the Companions everywhere.

In taking my official leave of so exalted a body as this, in bidding farewell to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania as its chief in authority, after an association in that capacity for the two years last past, I am oppressed at once with a sense of the great honors which have been conferred on me and by an utter inability to express my grateful emotions in language adequate to the occasion.

To me the association has been delightful as well as honorable, in every respect. In it the only drawback to my happiness has been my inability to accomplish a due fulfilment of its various requirements. My consolation is, that I have endeavored to perform my duty to the best of my limited strength; and that I have never shrunk from any part of my responsibilities. If I have failed to come up to their full measure, or been unable to perform as much as I ought to have done, I have always acted most earnestly, with nothing for my aim but the best interests of the Grand Chapter and of the cause of Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania and around the globe. My defects have always been met by the kind forbearance of the Companions, and however oppressed with a sense of them, the burden has always been lightened and my fears dispelled by the courteous assistance and the fraternal forbearance of my Companions of the Grand Chapter.

As to my Grand Officers, as a body and individually, it is

impossible for me to express my sense of their distinguished abilities and excellence in all the true attributes of a Royal Arch Mason. Skilled and accomplished, as they have become, in every part of their duties and of the work of the Order, they have, without wavering, stood by me in every trying emergency; and, on all occasions, they have promptly answered my call for their co-operation and assistance, whenever required. Our official and personal relations and association have never been interrupted for a moment by the slightest jar or breach of harmony, and a recurrence to its pleasant and instructive hours will ever be with the brightest of my memories of the past.

In being able to lay before the Grand Chapter so favorable, so bright and so encouraging a view of the condition and prospects of our beloved institution, I am impressed with gratitude to the Supreme Ruler over us all for His merciful kindness, to which we are indebted for all that we enjoy. And first, with humble thanks to Him, and then with grateful emotions, that cannot be expressed, towards my Companions, who have so generously elevated me to their highest honors, and so long and so nobly sustained me, I most cheerfully resign the sceptre into the able hands of my distinguished successor, and affectionately say to my Companions—as their Grand High Priest—farewell.

The following-named Companions having been elected, November 4, A. D. 1869, A. I. 2399, for the ensuing Masonic year, were this day installed, viz.:

Comp. MICHAEL NISBET,	.	.	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
“ CHARLES EUGENE MEYER,	.	“	<i>Grand King.</i>
“ JOHN WILSON, JR.,	.	“	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
“ PETER WILLIAMSON,	.	“	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON,	.	“	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>

After the ceremony of installation, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion Michael Nisbet, delivered the following address:

COMPANIONS:

Through the care, skill and fidelity of my predecessors in office, Royal Arch Masonry has attained its present flourishing condition throughout this jurisdiction, and the Companions remain united and harmonious.

Much of this prosperity is owing to the successful system of official Grand Visitations so ably planned and admirably carried out by Companion Samuel C. Perkins, during his term of office as Grand High Priest, and which has since been continued by my immediate predecessor, Companion George Griscom, while occupying the same exalted station.

In assuming the great, grave and important responsibility of the high station to which you have exalted me, it is not only my intention to endeavor to maintain this satisfactory state of prosperity, unity and harmony, but also to endeavor to so administer the affairs of this Grand Chapter during my term of office as to strengthen the Craft, still further promote its prosperity, and foster that spirit of charity and fraternal love which the principles of our institution should impress so deeply upon our minds and hearts.

The Grand Visitations just mentioned have done much to strengthen the bonds of fraternity and unity, existing between the Grand and subordinate Chapters; have been the means of imparting Masonic light and knowledge to a great many Companions; have increased the desire to become Royal Arch Masons; infused new life in many Chapters where only apathy had previously existed; caused several new Chapters to be formed that are now prosperous and thriving; and largely increased the revenue of the Grand Chapter: in short, they revived Royal Arch Masonry throughout the jurisdiction, which, for several years previous, had, except in the city of Philadelphia, been languishing and drooping.

Deeply impressed with the idea that they are essential to the welfare and prosperity of the Craft, it is my intention, if business engagements will permit, to visit such portions of the jurisdiction as have not already been visited, as well as such portions I may think require instruction: uniformity and cor-

rectness in the work being more essential than rapid increase of numbers. While not one of those who deprecate the extension of Masonry, we think rapid increase of numbers not as desirable as that the high moral standard required of applicants should be maintained. With a firm and steadfast belief that the institution is beneficial to mankind, and that it is the friend of good morals and the handmaid of religion, we think that none but the true, the tried and the trusty should be allowed to enter into our tabernacle; and while we would extend the right hand of fellowship, and greet with a hearty welcome all good men who desire to learn our mysteries, and are willing to practice the virtues which Masonry inculcates, we think no Companion can be too careful who he recommends, no Committee too strict in their inquiries before they approve. If the month allowed the Committee for inquiring into the case intrusted to their care is not sufficient, let them ask for more time, but let their work be carefully and thoroughly done.

Doing the work in a short way, which is the sugar-coated way of saying a degree has been but partially conferred, must be stopped. This evil arises from some of the Chapters having more work than can be properly done at the regular meetings; and in order to get through and avoid holding extra meetings, a considerable portion of our beautiful ritual is omitted, which is a wrong to the candidate and a violation of the regulations of the Grand Chapter.

An applicant, who has been found worthy and duly approved, and remains under good report, is entitled to receive all that he applies for; and the Chapter or Lodge is bound to give him all that the Grand Chapter says he is to receive. Work, thus hurried, is never well done.

A number of Past Grand High Priests, eminent for their knowledge of our sublime mysteries, and whose Masonic experience extended back for many years, were appointed a Committee to ascertain what was the old and ancient work of this jurisdiction. That Committee made report and exemplified what they considered to be the ancient work in the Grand Chapter; and subsequently the Grand Chapter, formally and solemnly, approved their report, and declared the work, so reported, to be the ancient work of this jurisdiction; and the work so approved

was that that is now and has been, for several years past, exemplified by the officers of this Grand Chapter. That work is the only work that can or will be recognized as the work in Pennsylvania; and, as no provision has ever been made for omitting any portion of it, it must be conferred in full and in its entirety, and all the power at my command will be exerted to maintain its purity and guard it against innovation, from whatever quarter it may come. Every part of our ceremonial has its hidden meaning; and how can a candidate feel its force and see its beauty when he receives the benefit of only a portion of it?

Permission is given to confer the degrees forthwith upon applicants, in cases of emergency, of which the Chapter or Lodge, respectively, shall be the judge. This permission is intended to apply only to real and not imaginary cases of emergency. The mere desire of a candidate to proceed without delay—the desire of a Companion, who, to convince the applicant of his influence in the Chapter or Lodge, allows his wishes to outrun his judgment by endeavoring to have the ordinary delay dispensed with—or the desire of the Chapter or Lodge to do the work, from whatever cause that desire may arise—does not constitute a case of emergency. An applicant has six months, from the time he is elected, to come forward and receive his degrees; therefore an intended absence from the locality of a Chapter or Lodge, for a less period than seven months, does not constitute a case of emergency. The most serious objection, however, to cases of emergency is, that some member may be unavoidably absent from a meeting, when a petition might be presented from one to whose further advancement he might have serious objections, the case declared one of emergency, and the applicant thus receive the degrees which, under our time-honored custom, he could not have obtained. But, as the Chapter or Lodge is to be the judge in cases of emergency, I would fraternally suggest, to all High Priests and Masters, that where so-called cases of emergency occur, that they require the cause to be fully and distinctly stated, in open Chapter or Lodge, that every member may be able to form an opinion as to the emergency of the case.

Bear this in mind, my Companions, that Masonry seeks no

man, but quietly waits to be sought; and that he who desires to enjoy the rights, privileges and benefits of Free Masonry, must abide Masonry's own time to confer those rights, privileges and benefits upon him.

Under no circumstances can the degrees be conferred, either in cases of emergency or on those desiring to receive them as a sojourner, without a petition in due form has been first received and referred to a committee, a favorable report from all the members of the committee, and the unanimous approval of the applicant by ballot.

The Grand Chapter expects compliance with its rules and regulations both by officers and Companions. We are all under obligations to render obedience to the laws and maintain the landmarks of our fraternity. Those laws are few, simple and easily understood; and it is as much your duty, my Companions, not to infringe them, as it has become imperatively mine to correct or prevent any infringement of them. "Let us not touch the Ark" of our Masonic Covenant, lest we perish Masonically.

Masonry in Pennsylvania is opposed to all innovation and change; clinging to all that is old, and standing aloof from all that might be termed new. Our maxim is, that Masonry is as unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. To ascertain what is correct, we must look backward, not forward; and I would fraternally caution all High Priests against those well-meaning Companions, who visit other Chapters than their own, for the purpose of instructing them in the work. However good the motive prompting these self-constituted instructors, they, in many instances, stand as much in need of instruction as the Companions they visit, and are as likely to breed error as to cure it. The only authority for correct work is the Grand Chapter; and, should any Chapter desire instruction in the work, and its officers be unable to visit the Grand Chapter to obtain it, upon application to the Grand High Priest a competent Companion will be duly commissioned to impart it to them. Should any Companion attempt the part of instructor,

without exhibiting the proper authority, you will consider him "as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

The Constitution of the Grand Chapter, page 40, provides as follows: Any Chapter or Lodge failing to make the required annual return, on or before the third Monday of February, after such return shall be due, shall be notified thereof by the Grand Secretary; and, if such return be not received by him within three months following the date of the notice, the warrant of the defaulting Chapter or Lodge is *ipso facto* suspended; and, unless cause be shown to the contrary, may be vacated at the next or any subsequent quarterly communication of the Grand Chapter.

As the High Priest of every Chapter and Master of every Lodge has it in special charge to see that the Constitution, Rules, Regulations and edicts of the Grand Chapter are duly observed, and that all the officers of his Chapter or Lodge perform the duties of their respective offices faithfully, it becomes their duty to see that the annual returns are made in due time. While we have every disposition to deal fraternally and leniently with every Chapter or Lodge, within our jurisdiction, the laws of the Grand Chapter must be obeyed, and the Chapter or Lodge failing to comply with this law pronounces the suspension of its own warrant.

On page 24 of the Constitution, it is also provided that "no Chapter or Lodge shall confer any degree on an applicant residing in the vicinity of another Chapter or Lodge respectively, without the previous permission of such Chapter or Lodge, or of the three principal officers thereof," &c. This law, wisely intended for the protection of Chapters as well as the Craft, must be strictly conformed to. Should any one residing within the jurisdiction of one Chapter apply to another at a distance from his place of residence, the Chapter to which he applies must ask the one nearest his residence whether there are any objections to granting his application.

I would call your attention to a practice growing too common, which cannot be too strongly condemned by all right-thinking and right-minded Masons, that of speaking in a deprecatory or

defamatory way of a Companion's character. That it is in many instances the result of thoughtlessness or intended to be jocular, I do not doubt. That no harm may be intended, does not warrant us in the belief that none has been done. An unguarded word or expression may be picked up and so repeated as to create mutual ill-feelings between those who otherwise might be friends. This should always be guarded against, as the peace and harmony of a Chapter or Lodge may be forever marred by the utterance of an ill-timed or ill-judged word.

“Should you feel inclined to censure
 Faults you may in others view,
 Ask your own life, ere you venture.
 If that has not failings too.

“Let not friendly vows be broken ;
 Rather strive a friend to gain ;
 Many a word in anger spoken
 Finds its passage back again.

“Do not, then, in idle pleasure.
 Trifle with a brother's fame ;
 Guard it as a valued treasure,
 Sacred as your own good name.

“Do not form opinion blindly ;
 Hastiness to trouble tends ;
 Those of whom we thought unkindly
 Oft become our warmest friends.”

This day—consecrated to the memory of St. John the Evangelist, one of the purest and brightest Masons that ever lived, venerated wherever Masonry exists as a patron of our fraternity—is the beginning of our new year. In a few minutes our labors for the present will be closed, and we will separate each to his own home, some of us perhaps never to meet in this Grand Chapter again. Let us, my Companions, before we part, ask ourselves the question: Do we sincerely and truly live up to the principles and tenets of our time-honored institution? If our conscience answer us that we do not, then let us resolve that from this time forth we will endeavor, by discreet, virtuous and fraternal conduct, to merit the name of Royal Arch Mason.

Let us endeavor by our outward lives to show that we in-

wardly appreciate those virtues we endeavor to inculcate, and practice outside the Chapter those principles of religion and morality we are taught within it. Let us live each day as if we expected it to be our last.

After which the Most Excellent Grand High Priest was pleased to announce the following appointments for the year beginning Saint John's day, December 27, 1869:

Comp. GEORGE J. BECKER, .	. <i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i>
“ DAVID B. TAYLOR, .	. <i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
“ WILLIAM J. KELLY, .	. <i>Grand Royal Arch Captain.</i>
“ ANDREW ROBENO, JR., .	. <i>Grand Master Third Vail.</i>
“ HORACE FRITZ, .	. <i>Grand Master Second Vail.</i>
“ JOHN H. ISRAEL, .	. <i>Grand Master First Vail.</i>
“ EDWARD MASSON, .	. <i>Grand Marshal.</i>
“ R. L. LEE, .	. <i>S. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
“ A. C. IRELAND, .	. <i>J. G. M. of Ceremonies.</i>
“ JOHN J. HEISLER, .	. <i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
“ CHARLES SCHNIDER, .	. <i>Grand Tyler.</i>

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Reverend Companion JOHN CHAMBERS,

“	“	DANIEL WASHBURN,
“	“	JOSEPH CASTLE,
“	“	JAMES MCGOWAN,
“	“	ROBERT H. PATTISON,
“	“	W. C. ROBINSON,
“	“	THOMAS A. FERNLEY,
“	“	ALEXANDER M. WIGGINS.

COMMITTEE ON WORK.

Comp. JOSEPH S. RILEY,	Comp. DAVID C. SKERRETT, M. D.,
“ DANIEL THOMPSON,	“ GEORGE W. WOOD,
Comp. JEREMIAH L. HUTCHINSON.	

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Comp. EDWARD P. LESCURE, Comp. THOMAS D. WATTSON,
 “ CONRAD B. DAY, “ CHARLES R. SHANTZ,
 Comp. JOHN R. MANDERFIELD, JR.

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. GEORGE GRISCOM, Comp. LEMUEL STEVENS,
 “ JAMES BLELOCH, “ DENNIS F. DEALY,
 Comp. THOMAS H. JACOBS.

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

Comp. J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON, Comp. GEORGE H. ASHTON,
 “ JOSEPH H. HEDGES, “ JOHN C. SNOWDEN,
 Comp. JAMES M. BEATTY.

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD, Comp. HENRY J. WHITE,
 “ JOHN BEENKEN, “ ALFRED T. JONES,
 Comp. ALFRED R. POTTER.

COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

Comp. JAMES SIMPSON, Comp. ALEX. KIRKPATRICK,
 “ WM. T. TAYLOR, M. D., “ THOMAS STILLMAN,
 Comp. HENRY L. SINEXON.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.

- 1—Companion JOSEPH S. EVANS,
 of West Chester, for the Counties of Chester and Montgomery.
- 2—Companion CHARLES M. HOWELL,
 of Lancaster, for the Counties of Lancaster, York, Dauphin and Lebanon.

- 3—Companion ROBERT H. THOMAS,
of Mechanicsburg, for the Counties of Cumberland, Franklin, Adams and Perry.
- 4—Companion THOMAS B. BANCROFT,
of Ashland, for the Counties of Schuylkill and Berks.
- 5—Companion EDWIN G. MARTIN, M. D.,
of Allentown, for the Counties of Carbon, Northampton, Lehigh and Bucks.
- 6—Companion HENRY M. HOYT,
of Wilkesbarre, for the Counties of Luzerne, Pike and Monroe.
- 7—Companion JOHN H. DUSENBURY,
of Great Bend, for the Counties of Susquehanna, Sullivan and Wayne.
- 8—Companion W. A. PECK,
of Towanda, for the Counties of Bradford and Wyoming.
- 9—Companion ROBERT C. SIMPSON,
of Wellsboro, for the Counties of Tioga, Potter and McKean.
- 10—Companion CHRISTIAN F. KNAPP,
of Bloomsburg, for the Counties of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union and Snyder.
- 11—Companion MICHAEL B. HERING,
of Lock Haven, for the Counties of Lycoming, Clinton, Centre, Clearfield and Cameron.
- 12—Companion J. KING McLANAHAN,
of Hollidaysburg, for the Counties of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Bedford and Fulton.
- 13—Companion WILLIAM CHATLAND,
of Brownsville, for the Counties of Washington, Fayette, Greene and Somerset.
- 14—Companion JAMES H. HOPKINS,
of Pittsburg, for the Counties of Alleghany, Westmoreland, Beaver, Armstrong, Butler and Indiana.
- 15—Companion JAMES R. BARBER,
of Titusville, for the Counties of Lawrence, Crawford, Mercer and Erie.
- 16—Companion CHRISTIAN F. HOOVER,
of Franklin, for the Counties of Warren, Forrest, Jefferson, Elk, Clarion and Venango.

DISTRICT.	DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST.	RESIDENCE.	LOCATION OF CHAPTER.		CHAPTER.	
			COUNTY.	CITY OR TOWN.	No.	NAME.
			Philadelphia	Philadelphia . . .	3	Jerusalem.
			"	"	52	Harmony.
			"	"	91	Columbia.
			"	"	169	Philadelphia.
			"	"	175	Keystone.
			"	"	183	Oriental.
			"	Germantown	208	Germantown.
			Chester	Phoenixville	198	Phoenix.
			"	West Chester	202	Howell.
			"	Oxford	223	Oxford.
			Montgomery	Norristown	190	Norristown.
			"	Fort Washington	220	Worthington.
			Lancaster	Lancaster	43	
			"	Columbia	224	Corinthian.
			York	York	199	Howell.
			Dauphin	Harrisburg	21	Perseverance.
			Lebanon	Lebanon	197	Weidle.
			Cumberland	Carlisle	171	St. John's.
			"	Mechanicsburg . . .	209	Saml. C. Perkins.
			Franklin	Chambersburg . . .	176	Geo. Washington.
			Adams			
			Perry			
			Schuylkill	Minersville	159	Schuylkill.
			"	Tamaqua	177	Tamaqua.
			"	Pottsville	196	Mountain City.
			"	Ashland	219	Griscom.
			"	Tremont	221	Tremont.
			Berks	Reading	152	Reading.
1	JOSEPH S. EVANS	West Chester, Chester county				
2	CHARLES M. HOWELL.	Lancaster, Lancaster county				
3	ROBERT H. THOMAS . .	Mechanicsburg, Cumberland co . . .				
4	THOMAS B. BANCROFT.	Ashland, Schuylkill county				

DISTRICT.	DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST.	RESIDENCE.	LOCATION OF CHAPTER.		CHAPTER.	
			COUNTY.	CITY OR TOWN.	No.	NAME.
5	EDWIN G. MARTIN . . .	Allentown, Lehigh county	Carbon Northampton . . . Lehigh " Bucks Luzerne " " " Pike Monroe Susquehanna . . . " Sullivan Wayne Bradford Wyoming " Tioga Potter McKean Columbia " Montour Northumberland Union Snyder Lycoming	Mauch Chunk . . . Easton Allentown Bethlehem Wilkesbarre Scranton Plymouth Carbondale Great Bend Montrose Honesdale Towanda Tunkhannock . . . Factoryville Wellsboro Catawissa Bloomsburg Sunbury Williamsport	181 173 203 216 182 185 214 179 210 180 204 161 172 205 194 178 218 174 222	Lilly. Easton. Allen. Zinzendorf. Shekinah. Lackawanna. Valley. Eureka. Great Bend. Warren. Anthony Wayne. Union. Temple. Factoryville. Tioga. Catawissa. Bloomsburg. Northumberland. Lycoming.
6	HENRY M. HOYT	Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county				
7	JOHN H. DUSENBERRY	Great Bend, Susquehanna county.				
8	WILLIAM A. PECK	Towanda, Bradford county				
9	ROBERT C. SIMPSON . .	Wellsboro, Tioga county				
10	CHRISTIAN F. KNAPP.	Bloomsburg, Columbia county . . .				
11	MICHAEL B. HERING . .	Lock Haven, Clinton county				

DISTRICT.	DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST.	RESIDENCE.	LOCATION OF CHAPTER.		CHAPTER.	
			COUNTY.	CITY OR TOWN.	No.	NAME.
11	MICHAEL B. HERING..	Lock Haven, Clinton county..	Clinton	Lock Haven	163	La Fayette.
			Centre.....			
			Clearfield.....			
			Cameron			
12	J. KING McLANAHAN.	Hollidaysburg, Blair county.....	Blair	Hollidaysburg ..	166	Mount Moriah.
			"	Altoona	189	Mountain.
			Cambria	Johnstown.....	195	Portage.
			Huntingdon	Huntingdon.....	201	Standingstone.
			Mifflin.....	Lewistown.....	186	Lewistown.
			Juniata.....			
			Bedford			
			Fulton			
13	WILLIAM CHATLAND..	Brownsville, Fayette county	Washington ...	Washington	150	Washington.
			Fayette	Brownsville.....	164	Brownsville.
			Greene.....			
			Somerset			
14	JAMES H. HOPKINS ...	Pittsburg, Alleghany county.....	Alleghany	Pittsburg	162	Zerubbabel.
			"	"	193	Duquesne.
			"	Alleghany	217	Alleghany.
			Westmoreland...	Greensburg	192	Urania.
			Beaver.....	Rochester.....	167	Eureka.
			"	New Brighton...	206	Harmony.
			Armstrong.....			
			Butler.....			
			Indiana.....			
15	JAMES R. BARBER....	Titusville, Crawford county.....	Lawrence.....	New Castle	170	Delta.
			Crawford	Conneautville...	187	Oriental.
			"	Meadville.....	191	Solomon's.

DISTRICT.	DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST.	RESIDENCE.	LOCATION OF CHAPTER.		CHAPTER.	
			COUNTY.	CITY OR TOWN.	No.	NAME.
15	JAMES R. BARBER	Titusville, Crawford county	Crawford	Titusville	207	Aaron.
			Mercer	Greenville	212	Mound.
			Erie	Girard	213	
			"	Erie	215	Temple.
			Warren	Corry	200	Columbus.
			Forest			
			Jefferson	Brookville	225	Jefferson.
			Elk			
			Clarion			
			Venango	Franklin	211	Venango.
16	CHRISTIAN M. HOOVER	Franklin, Venango county				

LOCATION OF MARK LODGE.		MARK LODGE.	
COUNTY.	CITY.	No.	NAME.
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	91	Columbia.
"	"	214	Girard.
"	"	216	Excelsior.

REPORT

OF THE

Committee on Correspondence

OF THE

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania,

FOR THE YEARS 1868, 1869.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

The subject of the printing of the proceedings for the year next preceding St. John's Day, 1868, having been referred to the Committee on Correspondence, in connection with the Grand Officers, and it having been concluded to defer the printing so as to include also the proceedings of the year 1869, and a report from the then Committee on Correspondence, which Companion S. C. Perkins, its Chairman, then expected to make; and Companion Perkins, by absence in Europe and other causes, having been prevented from making such report, and a large number of printed documents received by him during the two years next preceding St. John's Day last having been, on February 9, 1870, sent by him to the office of Companion Griscom, that Companion submitted the same to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, with request that as this mass of documents did not belong to the present Committee on Correspondence, he would be pleased to appoint some one to examine and make report thereon to the Grand Chapter, in time for the printing of the proceedings for those two years.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest was thereupon pleased to designate and appoint the Most Excellent Grand King, Companion Charles E. Meyer, for that purpose, and the following is his report thereon:

TO THE

M. E. Grand High Priest of the

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:

The COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE for the years 1868 and 1869 fraternally report that they have received from Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest Companion Samuel C. Perkins the proceedings of thirty-four sister Grand Chapters for the years 1867, 1868, 1869; that in the very short time allowed them for review they have collected such matters of information as may be interesting to the Royal Arch Craft in this jurisdiction; that they have made as few comments thereon as was possible, deeming it necessary to note only such proceedings as are different from the law in this jurisdiction or from the general ideas of Masonic law entertained by your Committee. The proceedings received and reviewed are as follows:

ALABAMA, . . .	1867-8	MICHIGAN, . . .	1869
ARKANSAS, . . .	1867-8	MISSISSIPPI, . . .	1846 to 1866-8-9
CANADA, . . .	1867-8-9	MISSOURI, . . .	1867-8
CALIFORNIA, . . .	1867-8	MINNESOTA, . . .	1868
CONNECTICUT, . . .	1868-9	NEBRASKA, . . .	1867-8
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, . . .	1867-8	NEW YORK, . . .	1868-9
FLORIDA, . . .	1868-9	NEW JERSEY, . . .	1867-8
GEORGIA, . . .	1869	NEW HAMPSHIRE, . . .	1866-7
ILLINOIS, . . .	1867-8	NORTH CAROLINA, . . .	1868
INDIANA, . . .	1868-9	OHIO, . . .	1867-8
IOWA, . . .	1867-8	RHODE ISLAND, . . .	1867-8
KANSAS, . . .	1867-8	SOUTH CAROLINA, . . .	1867-9
KENTUCKY, . . .	1867-8	TENNESSEE, . . .	1867-8-9
LOUISIANA, . . .	1868-9	TEXAS, . . .	1868-9
MAINE, . . .	1868-9	VERMONT, . . .	1867-8-9
MARYLAND AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, . . .	1867-8-9	VIRGINIA, . . .	1867-8
MASSACHUSETTS, . . .	1867-8	WISCONSIN, . . .	1868-9

ALABAMA.

1867.

The Forty-first Annual Grand Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held in Montgomery, December 3, Companion George D. Norris, Grand High Priest, presiding. Forty-six subordinate Chapters represented. The address of the Grand High Priest—a very interesting document—begins as follows :

“*Qui debet nobis principium, idem dabit prosperos successus.*” Who can doubt the truth of the above sentence? From whence came our beginning but from the Great *Shem Hamphorash*, and will he not give us prosperous success? Is he not now? Our gates are thronged with applicants, and the Hiram sounds in many Halls. What is this imperious institution, which spreads her wings over the continents of Europe and America, the Isles of the Sea, and every habitable part of the earth, and which, without the slightest dependence on any form of government, has preserved its purity amidst every species of political convulsion, the disasters of war, the demolition of empires, kingdoms and States? What is this immense and silent influential association whose origin is lost amid the darkness of antiquity, and whose ramifications branch out amidst the conflicting interests of commercial speculations, diplomatic alliances, religious creeds, and all the social establishments of mankind, in every country of the world, in spite of differences in climate, color, language and manners?

What is the signification of its rites and ceremonies, its usages and its symbols? What services is it able to render to the sacred cause of humanity? It is Free Masonry, and the universe is the temple of the living God, whom Masons serve. Wisdom, Strength and Beauty are about His throne, as the pillars of His work; for His Wisdom is infinite, His Strength is Omnipotent, and Beauty shines forth throughout all creation in symmetrical order. He hath stretched forth the heavens as a canopy, and the earth He planted as His footstool. The canopy of His temple is crowned with stars as with a diadem. The sun and moon are messengers of His will, and all His law is concord.

He reports the death, by the hands of an assassin, of Past Grand High Priest James B. Harrison, and directed that all Royal Arch Masons should wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

The Grand High Priest decided that the High Priest of a Chapter in a disorganized condition, which, although represented in the last Grand Convocation, had failed to elect officers and was practically dead, although not so declared by the Grand Chapter, could not grant himself a demit and affiliate with another Chapter.

Permission was asked to confer the degrees upon one who had lost his arm in defence of his country, which was very properly and justly refused. No one should be permitted to advance in Masonry but those who are physically perfect. As no master can take an apprentice who is not without blemish, how much less can the High Priest of a Chapter permit any one to assist at the rebuilding of the temple who cannot use, in a proper manner, the implements of the craft? The earnest attention of the Grand Chapter was called to the passage of an edict forbidding Royal Arch Masons wearing Royal Arch clothing in a procession exclusively of Master Masons, and to the evil effect of *intemperance* and *profanity*. In Pennsylvania, a Royal Arch Mason is not permitted to appear as such in any procession or public display. We are glad to report that the Grand Chapter of Alabama issued an edict covering it. He also recommends that an edict should require that each candidate is proficient in the preceding degrees before he can be advanced.

A Past Grand High Priest's jewel was presented to all the Past Grand High Priests.

The following resolution was adopted:

ITINERANT LECTURERS.

Resolved, That no Companion Royal Arch Mason shall be allowed to travel and lecture in the subordinate Chapters, unless first procuring a certificate from the Committee on Work: *Provided*, That the Committee on Work shall not give such certificate to any Companion who is not a member of some subordinate Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

The great trouble of the want of uniformity of the work is caused by unauthorized Companions doing that which the Grand Chapter does not pronounce good and true work.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is by Companion P. J. Pillans, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters. A list of the delinquent Chapters is published. Companion Peleg Brown, Grand High Priest, and Companion Daniel Sayre, Grand Secretary.

1868.

The Forty-second Annual Grand Convocation was held at Montgomery, December 8, Companion Peleg Brown, Grand High Priest, presiding. Fifty-three Chapters represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest is full of the true Masonic spirit. Uniformity of work, proficiency before advancement, the establishing of a Council of the Order of High Priesthood, and the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, are all noted and discussed. Many decisions were made, with all of which we agree, except that allowing an appeal to the Chapter from the decision of its High Priest, if the presiding officer sees fit to waive his right and submit to the decision of the Chapter. This we do not think is good Masonic law. There can be but one appeal in Royal Arch Masonry, and that is to the Grand Chapter, and then only in a constitutional manner.

In closing his address, he says :

The principles of our Order have come down to us hoary with age, being the oldest on record, and coeval with the world, and, as remodelled by our ancient patrons, rank the earliest, and in their teachings the most pure. Having stood the test of ages, though at times under the ban of ignorance and persecution, yet the teachings and principles still survive, overcoming all obstacles, and again breaking forth to shine with redoubled brilliancy. Early history teaches us that all that is now taught in Capitular and Cryptic Masonry was originally taught in the first three degrees, including the Holy Royal Arch; but we have now, by the incisions which have been made, three distinct bodies of Ancient Craft Masonry, which, with the addition of the Templar Order, makes four in all, moving in harmony. Of the propriety of these incisions, it is not my purpose now to speak; but among the immense mass of Masonic literature now being published, and the strong desire for the accumulation of side degrees, now named as "Rites," I fear there is much that is calculated to injure and interfere with the teachings of our ancient Order and bring it into disrepute; and many who profess great proficiency in these side or what are sometimes called higher degrees, can scarcely make themselves known as Ancient Craft Masons. Then, Companions, let us adhere to our own Ancient work, practice and teach the principles as handed down to us from time immemorial. Let us in all our thoughts, words and actions strive to avoid doing any thing calculated to tarnish the fair fame bequeathed to us by our ancient patrons, that all may move on in harmony.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is by Companion P. J. Pillan, in which the last published proceedings of Pennsylvania are reviewed. He pays Companion William H. Allen a compliment by saying that his report "throughout is the calmest and justest that has passed in our review, and we only regret

it was not longer." The proceedings of twenty-four Grand Chapters are ably reviewed.

Companion PELEG BROWN, of Mobile, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion DANIEL SAYRE, of Montgomery, *Grand Secretary*.

ARKANSAS.

1867.

The Eighteenth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held in the city of Little Rock, October 31, 1867, Companion Luke E. Barber, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, in the East. In his annual address, he presents his doings as Grand High Priest for the inspection and approval of the Grand Chapter. He regrets that so little attention is paid to the study of the rulings and the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, and says that—

A knowledge of them would enable the Chapters to avoid some errors and save their members from unpleasant differences in opinion. The edict passed some years ago, declaring that the Chapter degrees should not be conferred upon one who had not been raised for the full period of twelve months, was repealed at our Convocation in 1865; and yet several communications have been received in relation to this subject, and dispensations asked for. The By-Laws of several Chapters prescribe that ministers of the gospel may take the Chapter degrees without fee; and yet the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter provides that the fees for the Chapter degrees shall not be less than twenty dollars; and this might be known by reference to that Constitution as printed more than once with our proceedings.

Of cases of emergency, he very truly remarks:

Some of the Chapters, with very great facility, declare petitions to be cases of emergency, when the petitioner is anxious to proceed, or the members are desirous to do the special work; and yet the Grand Chapter has declared that, to warrant such haste, the case must be one of real emergency. There occur but few such cases. The desire of the candidate to proceed without delay, however strongly that desire may be expressed—the desire of the Chapter to do the work, from whatever cause that desire may arise—cannot, generally, constitute a case of emergency. It may be assumed that there is less danger of exalting than initiating an unworthy person; and, therefore, it may seem that the same necessity for strict inquiry into character does not exist in the former as in the latter case. It may be and doubtless is true that, our intercourse with each other as Masons being

more intimate, we better understand each other's character, and there may not be the same necessity for time and a searching investigation on a petition for the Chapter degrees, where all are members of the same Lodge, as on the petition for initiation ; but it must be borne in mind that it is not every master that should be admitted to the higher mysteries. The most serious objection, however, to the practice of declaring cases emergent is : that it not unfrequently happens that some Companions, for good and sufficient reasons, from unavoidable necessity, are unable to attend at some stated meetings ; and a petition may be declared a case of emergency and the party admitted, without such absent Companions having the slightest knowledge of the intended application, though most serious objections to his admission may be known to them. I think the time-honored custom, well known to the fraternity, is the safest and should be adhered to ; and I warn you against this loose and easy practice, into which I find some of our Chapters are so prone to fall, and which, as was well declared by a committee at our last Convocation, whose report you adopted, "is altogether wrong."

"Emergency" never made a good Mason. If a Master Mason, after living for years in the immediate jurisdiction of a Chapter, never sees the advantages or feels enough interest in Royal Arch Masonry to apply for the degrees, he should not be permitted to apply to receive them as a case of emergency, simply because he is going to Europe, or some other place where Royal Arch Masonry is not known.

There should be no cases of emergency !

We think the Grand Chapter acted inconsistently, and did not give proper heed to the advice of the Grand High Priest ; for, on the same day, and after the reading of the above address, a petition for the degrees was *received* and *balloted* for, without being referred to any Committee for report as to the applicant's qualifications.

Grand Chapters and Grand High Priests have no inherent right to make Royal Arch Masons at sight. Masonic law, as applicable to Royal Arch Masonry, requires that all petitions shall be presented in a subordinate Chapter, recommended by two Royal Arch Companions, members, be referred to a Committee of three members, who shall report as to the moral and physical qualifications of the applicant.

The reason assigned in this case was, that it appeared to the Grand Chapter desirable that the work should be exemplified, &c. Who was there to avouch that the candidate would have received a *clear* ballot in the Chapter nearest his place of residence ?

Subsequently a resolution was carried, directing the above Companion to pay to his Chapter the fee prescribed by the by-laws. What Chapter did he belong to? Was he a member of the Grand Chapter? To whom does this fee belong?

Report on Foreign Correspondence from the pen of Companion C. B. Moore. Proceedings of twenty Grand Chapters reviewed. Most Excellent Companion Luke E. Barber, Grand High Priest, and Companion William D. Blocher, Grand Secretary.

1868.

The Nineteenth Annual Convocation was held in Little Rock, November 12, Most Excellent Companion Luke E. Barber, Grand High Priest, presiding. His address is short, and mostly refers to local jurisdiction.

The Grand Chapter, as in 1867, received and acted upon a petition for the degrees. In this case, however, it was recommended by two Royal Arch Masons, and the avouchment of the High Priest of the nearest Chapter that the petitioner would be acceptable to his Chapter.

The surplus funds of the Grand Chapter were appropriated to St. John's College.

The Committee on Masonic Law and Usage reported on the following question, which was approved and adopted by the Grand Chapter :

“Must a Companion Royal Arch Mason be affiliated with a blue or symbolic Lodge, in order to retain full fellowship in his Chapter?” We have considered the question, and report as follows :

Under an edict of this Grand Chapter, a Master Mason must be a member in good standing of some Lodge when he is elected to take the Chapter degrees. After he is exalted, his Chapter should not inquire into his relation to blue Masonry, further than to ascertain that he is not suspended or expelled, leaving the blue Craft to deal with the question of his affiliation or non-affiliation. If he happens to die in good standing in his Chapter, but unaffiliated with any symbolic Lodge, the Chapter would bury him according to its own ritual.

With us in Pennsylvania, the Royal Arch Mason loses his membership in the Chapter after six months non-affiliation with a blue Lodge.

A Past Grand High Priest's jewel was presented to Grand High Priest Barber.

Companion Samuel W. Williams, as Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, reviews the proceedings of twenty-eight Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included.

Most Excellent LUKE E. BARBER, of Little Rock, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion W. D. BLOCHER, of Little Rock, *Grand Secretary*.

CANADA.

1867.

The Tenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Canada was held at Ottawa, Ontario, August 13, Most Excellent Companion T. Douglas Harington, Grand Zerubbabel, on the Throne. Twenty-five subordinate Chapters represented. The titles of officers are different from those in the United States, being the same as in the Grand Chapter of England. There is no doubt but that the *Royal Arch degree proper* came to this country from England, and who made the change and why it was made we cannot understand. The officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada are (omitting the title Grand): Zerubbabel, Haggai, Joshua, Scribe Ezra, Scribe Nehemiah, Principal Sojourner, Treasurer, Registrar, First Assistant Sojourner, Second Assistant Sojourner, Sword Bearer, Standard Bearer, Director of Ceremonies, Organist, Pursuivant, Janitor, and two Grand Stewards. There are also Grand Superintendents, (answering to our District Deputies.) The Most Excellent Zerubbabel, in his address, announced with sincere pleasure that peace and harmony prevailed within his jurisdiction. Application had been made for a dispensation to exalt military and naval brethren for a less fee than the one established by law, which was very justly denied. A Committee was appointed to arrange the necessary installation, consecration, and dedication ceremonies.

Companion James Seymour furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-two Grand Chapters.

Most Excellent Companion T. Douglas Harington, Grand Zerubbabel, and T. B. Harris, Grand Scribe Nehemiah.

1868.

The Eleventh Annual Convocation was held at Montreal, August 11, Companion T. Douglas Harington, Grand Zerubbabel, on the Throne. Twenty-five subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand Zerubbabel, in his address, pays a fitting tribute to the memory of Companion the Hon. Robert Spence, who was ever ready to give his time, his talents, and his means, towards promoting the prosperity of Freemasonry. He reports during the past year his work had been easy and his labor light. Dispensations were granted to three new Chapters. He suggests the constituting, if possible, of a General Grand Chapter for the Dominion. An amendment to the Constitution, changing the time of meeting, was lost.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is by Companion Henry Robertson, "a maiden effort," very creditable, indeed. He reviews the proceedings of twenty-nine Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania among the number.

Most Excellent Companion T. Douglas Harington was re-elected Grand Zerubbabel, and Thomas Bird Harris, Grand Scribe Ezra.

1869.

At the Twelfth Annual Convocation, held at Kingston, August 10, Most Excellent Companion T. Wilson, Past Grand Zerubbabel, acting as Grand Zerubbabel, (in the absence of Companion Harington, Grand Zerubbabel,) opened the Grand Chapter in due form. Twenty-nine subordinates represented.

The address of the Grand Zerubbabel was read by the Grand Scribe Ezra.

Peace and harmony and prosperity prevail in all the subordinates. Dispensations were granted to five new Chapters. He expresses great anxiety to have a uniformity of work. He reports that the Supreme Grand Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of England, &c., thirty-third degree, had appointed him its Representative, &c. We cannot see what the Ancient and Accepted Rite has to do with Royal Arch Masonry, and we are glad to record that the Grand Chapter refused to recognize said Rite, inasmuch as that Grand Chapter, or the degrees conferred under its authority, are not recognized by the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

The Constitution was amended so as to make the time of meeting the second Wednesday of August, annually.

Most Excellent Companion T. DOUGLAS HARRINGTON, of Ottawa, *Grand Zerubbabel*.

THOMAS BIRD HARRIS, of Ontario, *Grand Scribe Ezra*.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is by Right Excellent Companion Henry Robertson, who reviews in a brief manner the proceedings of twenty-eight Grand Chapters. We find the article on Scotland so interesting as a history of Royal Arch Masonry that we must transfer it to our report.

SCOTLAND.

The annual reporter contains an abstract of the proceedings of the Supreme Grand Chapter and Committee, from March, 1868, to March, 1869. The register shows one hundred Chapters, and eleven Mark Lodges. The receipts for the year were £392 3s. 11*d.*, and the balance on hand £1,215 3s. 8*d.* The number of registrations was four hundred and seventy-six. Seven new Chapters received charters during the year, and one Mark Lodge a warrant.

An important question of Masonic law came up on a communication from Sydney, New South Wales, relative to the right of a Companion, who had been suspended in a Lodge, to demand admittance to a Chapter. The suspended brother, who was a member of St. Andrew's Chapter, No. 110, maintained his right to be admitted to the Chapter, contending that under the Scotch Constitution there is no connection between the two orders of St. John's and Royal Arch Masonry. The Supreme Committee, in their report, say: "There can be no doubt that the Grand Lodge of Scotland, differing, it is believed, from every other Grand Lodge, recognizes no degree in Masonry above that of Master Mason; and such being the case, it may view with indifference the effect which may be given to its sentence by the higher orders; but, on the other hand, no brother can be admitted to the higher orders unless he proves himself to be a St. John's Mason, and as, by the obligation taken by every Master Mason, he cannot speak upon the subject of St. John's Masonry with a brother suspended or expelled, while under either of these sentences, it seems to follow that, were a suspended St. John's Mason, who happened to be a Royal Arch Companion, present at an exaltation, no candidate could give the necessary proofs that he was a Master Mason. After communicating with the Scribe Ezra of England, and the Registrar of Ireland, as to the practice there prevailing, resolutions were adopted declaring against the right of a suspended brother to admittance into a Chapter.

At the quarterly meeting in September, 1868, the Grand Scribe Ezra read a most interesting communication on the dignity of the Royal Arch degree, from a learned and eminent Companion, W. J. Hugan, Truro,

Cornwall, Past Zerubbabel, No. 79. Its importance must be our excuse for copying it *in extenso*.

“In the interesting introduction to the Laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, 1861, it is stated that ‘the earliest printed notice of the Royal Arch is in an address by Lawrence Dermott, to the gentlemen of the fraternity, published about the middle of the last century.’ In allusion to the differences between the ancient and modern Grand Lodges of England, he asks, ‘whether it is possible to initiate or introduce a modern Mason into a Royal Arch Lodge (the very essence of Masonry) without making him go through ancient ceremonies?’ (page v.) The answer to which was ‘No.’

“It is also stated that the minute book belonging to the Stirling Ancient Lodge, of 1743, referring to the Royal Arch degree, ‘is the oldest written record now extant; and no other Chapter in Scotland has been able to show documentary evidence in its favor of an earlier date than 1765, although in these years the Chapters were already accounted old, and in full operation.’ (Page xii.)

“It is my peculiar privilege to be able to afford evidence of the notice of Royal Arch Masonry in print *twenty years* earlier than the ‘introduction’ allows of, through being in possession of two works, respectively dated A. D. 1756, and A. D. 1744. The edition of Ahiman Rezon, by Lawrence Dermott, containing ‘the address to the gentlemen of the fraternity,’ was not published until A. D. 1764, being the *second edition*.

“The *first edition* of Ahiman Rezon (which we have) was issued A. D. 1756, and although it did not contain the address in question, the editor (then Grand Secretary of the Ancients) inserted ‘a prayer repeated in the Royal Arch Lodge at Jerusalem,’ (page 47,) concluding as follows :

‘Because we have trusted in thy Holy, Great, Mighty and Terrible name,
We will rejoice and be glad in thy salvation, and in thy mercies, O Lord our God;
And the multitude of thy mercies, O Lord our God; and the multitude of thy mercies,
Shall not forsake us forever. Selah :
And now make haste and bring upon us a blessing, and peace from the
Four corners of the earth; for thou art a God that workest salvation,
And hast chosen us out of every people and language; and thou, our King,
Hast caused us to cleave to thy great name, in love to praise thee,
And to be united to thee, and to love thy name; blessed art thou,
O Lord God, who hast chosen thy people Israel in love.’

“Brother Dermott ‘having inserted this prayer, and mentioned that part of Masonry commonly called the Royal Arch,’ (page 47,) proceeds to eulogize it thus : I firmly believe the Royal Arch to be the root, heart, and marrow of Freemasonry.

“Brother Dermott then mentions that the candidate for Royal Arch Masonry ‘must first have passed the Chair in regular form, according to the ancient custom of the Craft,’ and to further enforce this law, he adds the opinion of the Worshipful Brother, Dr. Fifield D’Assigny, printed *in the year 1744*.

“Now, it is this work by Dr. D’Assigny that we have the pleasure of possessing, and which we beg to bring before the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, as its evidence on the Royal Arch degree is most important and unique.

“It has been thought by some never to have been in existence, as no authority but Dermott, from 1756 down to the last year, ever speaks of having seen it, but like the late brother, the Rev. Dr. George Oliver, refer to the quotation by Dermott only.

“The learned Mason, Brother J. G. Findel, of Leipzig, when in England on a Masonic visit, says, ‘I have sought in vain for the book in the British Museum.’

“Dr. George Kloss, in his accurate and valuable ‘Bibliographie der Freimaurerei,’ of 1844, is unable to do more than give the reference to Ahiman Rezon, of A. D. 1756.

“We are, thanks be, able to set the matter at rest, by having the work itself in our Masonic library, having purchased it in London, during the latter part of 1867, from a second-hand bookseller, who had no idea of its worth, and was in ignorance of its character.

“It was bound up with another work, and hence its being overlooked by the bookseller. Brother Findel, editor of ‘Die Banhutte,’ has already acknowledged (in the pages of that Masonic magazine) the importance of the discovery, and considers it to be the earliest printed work in the world that alludes to the Royal Arch degree.

“The work is entitled ‘A Serious and Impartial Inquiry into the Present Decay of Freemasonry in the Kingdom of Ireland,’ dedicated ‘To the Most Noble and Puissant Prince Truth.’ *Dublin*. Printed by Edward Bate. MDCCLIV. (8 vo., pages 80.)

“The work is mainly taken up with ‘instructive remarks, which may be found useful to revive the honor of that ancient Craft,’ and the ‘old and new regulations of the London constitutions,’ by the consent and approbation of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, dedicated to the Right Worshipful and Right Honorable the Lord Viscount Allen, Grand Master of this Kingdom, are inserted. It will be seen that, owing to this work being issued in 1744, all doubts of the degree being known at that date are disposed of at once. Some have tried to prove that the Royal Arch was unknown before the eighth decade of the last century ; but such attempts are weak indeed, and wholly absurd.

“Brother Dr. John Pearson Bell, Deputy Past Grand Master of N. and E. Yorkshire, has lately issued an admirable illustrative chart, depicting the purposes of Masonry, from an early period, in which he dates the origin of the degree in England at A. D. 1740.

“Dr. Robert Morris, Dr. Albert G. Mackay, and other well-known writers on the history of the fraternity, concur as to this date; and Brother William A. Laurie, Grand Secretary of Scotland, observes, ‘that beyond a mere assertion, there is no evidence of any kind of its existence in this country (*i. e.*, Scotland) previous to 1743.’ Whether the degree was derived from Scotland originally, or from England, it is impossible to say.

Certainly it was unknown in Ireland before A. D. 1740, and was planted there by the English Ancient Masons.

“Scotland possesses the earliest records of Arch Masonry in the world, and, so far as we know, is entitled to be considered as the chief authority in *ancient minutes* relating to Masonry, whether as to their operative or speculative character.

“The probability is, that the degree originated with the noted Chevalier Ramsay, of Ayr, and the ‘Ancients.’ But to return to D’Assigny’s work. There are only two references to the Royal Arch, both of which we give in their entire. The first is at page 16 ; in a note the author says :

“‘I am informed in that city is held an assembly of Master Masons, under the title of Royal Arch Masons, who as their qualifications and excellencies are superior to others, they receive a larger pay than working Masons.’

“The second reference to the Royal Arch is appended at page 32, and is *the one quoted generally by Masonic writers, where it is printed in italics ;* the other part, and the former quotation, have never been inserted in any other known Masonic work of any date whatever.

“‘As the landmarks of the constitution of Freemasonry are universally the same throughout all kingdoms, and are so well fixed that they will not admit of removal, how comes it to pass that some have been led away with ridiculous innovations ?—an example of which I shall prove by a certain propagator of a false system some few years ago in this city, who imposed upon several very worthy men, under pretence of being Master of the Royal Arch, which he asserted he had brought with him from the city of York, and that the beauties of the Craft did principally consist in the knowledge of this valuable piece of Masonry. However, he carried on his scheme for several months, and many of the learned and wise were his followers, till at length his fallacious art was discovered by a brother of probity and wisdom, who had some small space before attained that excellent part of Masonry in London, and plainly proved that his doctrine was false, whereupon the brethren justly despised him, and ordered him to be expelled from all benefits of the Craft ; and although *some of the fraternity have expressed an uneasiness at this matter being kept a secret from them, (since they had already passed through the usual degrees of probation,) I cannot help being of opinion that they have no right to any such benefit until they made a proper application, and are received with due formality ; and as it is an organized body of men who passed the Chair, and given undeniable proofs of their skill in architecture, it cannot be treated with too much reverence, and more especially since the character of the present members of that particular Lodge are untainted, and their behavior judicious and unexceptionable ; so that there cannot be the least hinge to hang a doubt on, but that they are most excellent Masons.*’

CALIFORNIA.

1867.

The Fourteenth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held in San Francisco, Monday, October 14, Most Excellent Companion Charles Marsh, Grand High Priest. Twenty-nine subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand Chapter was opened in *ample* form, when the Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, which is exceedingly short. He says that a careful legislation and the Constitution of the Grand Chapter render all questions of Masonic law and usage easy of solution. He certifies that the work as exemplified by the Grand Lecturer is the same in all essentials as practised in the "United States."

The report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of Companion Lawrence C. Owen, who reviews in an able manner the proceedings of twenty-five Grand Chapters.

A resolution was adopted making the office of Grand Lecturer, created at the Convocation of 1866, a General Regulation.

The portrait of Past Grand High Priest Marsh was ordered for the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Secretary reports that eight special dispensations were issued, by direction of the Grand High Priest, to ballot upon applications for the degrees, without reference of the petitions to Committees of investigation. The Grand High Priest is authorized by the Constitution to grant these dispensations, and it is to our minds a very dangerous prerogative. If we mistake not, custom and long-established usage require that all petitions be referred to a proper Committee for investigation into the character and fitness of the applicant.

Companion Isaac S. Titus, Grand High Priest, and Lawrence C. Owen, Grand Secretary.

1868.

The Fifteenth Annual Convocation was held in San Francisco, Monday, October 19, Most Excellent Companion Isaac Sutvene Titus, Grand High Priest, presiding. Thirty-one subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand High Priest, in his annual address, is very complimentary to his predecessors in office, under whose administrations the Grand Chapter has been

so prosperous, its business affairs conducted with so much system and order, and its laws so well defined and so easily understood that he had but little to do. He pays a fitting tribute to the memory of Past Grand High Priest Henry Hare Hartley. A mourning page of the proceedings was, by order of the Grand Chapter, dedicated to his memory. He also suggested that the Constitution be amended so as to change the time of meeting from following so close upon the meeting of the Grand Lodge. The Constitution was accordingly amended, making the time of convocation the first Tuesday in April.

Bound volumes of the proceedings have been prepared, and are for sale at two dollars per volume.

The Grand Lecturer, in speaking of the work of one of the Chapters, says: "The choral rendering of the lessons, and the appropriate anthems introduced by their choir, invest our ritual with a beauty and grandeur truly sublime, and which the mere reading of those noble passages can never equal."

Companion Lawrence C. Owen, Grand Secretary, again furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania among the number.

The Committee on Jurisprudence made the following report:

OBJECTIONS TO ADVANCEMENT.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the question propounded as to the course to be pursued where a brother has been elected to receive the Chapter degrees, and has received the degree of Mark Master, is objected to when he presents himself for the succeeding degree, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report that no rule has been established by this Grand Chapter for the government of subordinates in such cases; and, in the absence of any such provision, the brother would occupy the position of one who had been rejected upon a ballot for the degree. But the Grand Lodge of California having by its Constitution laid down a rule for its subordinates in similar cases, and it being desirable that there should be uniformity of practice, so far as it is possible, in the Lodges and Chapters in this jurisdiction, your Committee deem it advisable that the same rule should be established by this Grand Chapter. They therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution as a general regulation:

Resolved, That when, after an election of an applicant to receive the Chapter degrees, and he has received the Mark degree, an objection to his advancement is made at any time by a member, such objection shall be referred to a committee, with power to inquire into the cause thereof, who shall at the next stated meeting (unless further time be given) report

thereon; and upon the reception of such report, if no cause for the objection has been assigned, or if the cause assigned be, in the opinion of two-thirds of the members present, not a valid and Masonic one, the Chapter may confer the degree in the same manner as if no objection had been made.

The report was concurred in, and the resolution adopted as a general regulation.

REFUSAL TO RECORD HIS MARK.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the questions as to the right of a member of a Chapter to withdraw, who refused to record his mark, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report that the Grand Chapter, having provided that every Mark Master must, within six months after his admission, select his mark, and record the same in a Book of Marks kept by the Chapter for that purpose, a member who refuses to record his mark is acting in disobedience of one of the regulations of the Grand Chapter, all of which it is his bounden duty to obey, and whilst so refusing is liable to Masonic censure. He is consequently not entitled to withdraw until he has purged himself of his disobedience by complying with the established regulation.

Why not prefer charges against him, try him and expel him? It were better such a person were out of the Order.

Most Excellent Isaac S. Titus was installed as General Grand Captain of the Host of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. His portrait was also ordered for the Grand Chapter.

Most Excellent Companion JOHN W. HARVILLE, of San Francisco, *Grand High Priest*.

Most Excellent Companion LAWRENCE C. OWEN, of San Francisco, *Grand Secretary*.

CONNECTICUT.

A Semi-annual Convocation for the exemplification of the work was held November 6, 1867, at which the Most Excellent and Royal Arch degrees were conferred by one of the subordinate Chapters.

1868.

The Annual Convocation was held in the city of Hartford, May 12, Most Excellent Companion James L. Gould, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty-seven subordinate Chapters repre-

sented. The address of the Grand High Priest is one of the most practicable we have met with. It congratulates the Grand Chapter on the general good quality of the material introduced into the temple, but cautions them not to neglect to exercise the strictest scrutiny in the selection of candidates. He says :

We must guard well the outer courts of our tabernacle, and never admit candidates to our Chapters who have failed to make suitable proficiency in the symbolic degrees. And this proficiency is not to be in the ritual alone, however important that may be regarded, but it should be as well in the principles, tenets and essential doctrines of the Order. Those who cannot appreciate the first lessons taught them in Masonry, "to be good men and true," it is idle to suppose will ever become other than drones in the higher degrees, or, perhaps still worse, be plague spots on the fair fame of the institution. Let us, my Companions, be careful to select only the *very best* material, and then it matters not how rapidly our numbers may increase, we shall always in very truth "possess the satisfaction of finding none among us but such as will promote, to the utmost of their power, the great end of our institution."

He suggests that Chapters be forbidden to confer the capitular degrees upon non-affiliated Masons.

On the thoughtlessness that is so often displayed in the work, he says :

In some instances I feel there is still too much tendency to levity in the performance of our solemn ceremonies.

I am glad to know that this great evil has been to a very considerable extent removed from our Chapters, and that, with occasional exceptions, all the ceremonies in *all* the degrees are conducted with entire propriety and decorum. I trust that this will soon become the universal rule, for the result is one that all who love the Order should labor to secure. We should never, under any pretence, nor actuated by any motive, however plausible, allow the performance of apparently the most trivial of our rites to be made the occasion of any conduct on our part that can debase the dignity of the institution, or cause us to forget for a moment that our candidates are gentlemen, and we ourselves members of an ancient and honorable "Society of Friends and Brothers."

The Grand King, who also reports his doings, speaks on the same subject :

We are told that Masonry is a "progressive science;" if so, then should the progress which we make in this direction be abundantly apparent to the most casual observer. I have sometimes witnessed occurrences which might be proper in some other Order, but which should never be allowed

or countenanced in a Masonic Lodge—more especially by those who have been admitted within the veils, and beheld the sublimer mysteries of the Royal Arch.

We always look upon any one who would introduce levity or frivolity in our august ceremonies as a very poor Mason; he should be served like the defective stones at the building of the temple—that is, thrown among the rubbish, and lost. A few such worthless stones will in time destroy the beauty, harmony and stability of the building.

A Past High Priest's jewel was presented to Companion Past Grand High Priest Luke A. Lockwood.

Resolutions were adopted that the petition of a rejected candidate could not be again presented until after the period of six months had elapsed; and that said rejected candidate could not petition any other Chapter without first obtaining unanimous consent of the Chapter first rejecting him.

ON THE BALLOT.

Resolved, That whenever a ballot shall be spread upon the application of any candidate in any subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction, every member present must vote. If all the ballots are white, the High Priest must declare the candidate duly elected. If but one black ball appear, or if, for any cause, the High Priest be of the opinion a mistake has been made, he may order a new ballot to be immediately spread; and if all the ballots shall not then be white, the High Priest shall declare the candidate rejected, and the action of any Chapter upon the application of candidates must be recorded upon its minutes.

Resolved, That the subordinate Chapters of this jurisdiction are hereby forbidden to confer the degrees of Capitular Masonry, or either of them, upon any candidate, unless he be a member in good standing in a just and lawfully constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

Resolved, That hereafter no officer elect, either in this Most Excellent Grand Chapter or in any of the subordinate Chapters under its jurisdiction, shall be installed by proxy.

Resolved, That should any officer elect of this Most Excellent Grand Chapter be absent at the time of the regular installation of officers, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest shall issue his dispensation to some proper Companion, authorizing and instructing him to install such absent officer elect, at such time and place as shall be therein designated.

Resolved, That in case any officer elect of any subordinate Chapter shall be absent at the time of the regular installation of officers of such Chapter, it shall be the duty of the Most Excellent High Priest of such Chapter to install said officers elect at the first subsequent Convocation at which he presides.

Excellent Companion William Storer furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence. Most Excellent James L. Gould, Grand High Priest, and Companion John K. Wheeler, Grand Secretary.

A Semi-annual Convocation was held October 13, 1868, at which, besides the exemplification of the work, some business of a private nature was transacted, and a Grand Treasurer appointed *pro tem*.

1869.

At the Annual Convocation, held May 11, in New Haven, Most Excellent Companion James L. Gould, Grand High Priest, presided, assisted by his Grand Officers. Twenty-seven subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest's address refers principally to local affairs, to the Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, at St. Louis, 1868, (which he attended personally,) to uniformity of work and lectures, and the defalcation of the Grand Treasurer. He reports peace and harmony among all the Royal Craft in the jurisdiction.

Reports are also furnished by the Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe.

The late Grand Treasurer Benjamin Beecher was unanimously expelled from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, for embezzling the funds of the Grand Chapter.

Subordinate Chapters are required to insert, in their usual forms of application for the Chapter degrees, the sentence, "and that I have never been rejected by any Chapter of Royal Arch Masons."

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the introduction of spirituous liquors into the Chapter or ante-rooms of any Chapter, within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, be and the same is hereby strictly prohibited.

Which we heartily approve. We have never, however, in this jurisdiction seen any necessity for a resolution of this kind. Excellent Companion William Storer again furnishes us with an able and very readable report on Foreign Correspondence, in which he reviews the last published proceedings of Pennsylvania, making brief extracts from the "interesting" address of Past Grand High Priest Companion George Griscom.

Most Excellent Companion JOHN H. BARLOW, of Birmingham, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JOSEPH K. WHEELER, of Hartford, *Grand Secretary*.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

1867.

We have received "The Proceedings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia, for the year 1867, together with the Proceedings of the Preliminary Convention for the Formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia;" also, "A statement from the record of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, Georgetown, D. C., with deductions therefrom in relation to the so-called Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia;" also, the proceedings of the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of District of Columbia, held November 9, 1868. Reiterating what was said in the last Report on Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, "we shall not step aside to meddle with strife that belongs not to us," we shall not review the two first proceedings above mentioned. Much in anger was said and written on both sides, and we know the Companions principally interested are sorry for the past. The General Grand Chapter, at its Triennial Convocation in St. Louis, in 1868, by a majority vote, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is hereby recognized as a regular Grand Chapter, and its officers entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter.

Thus is settled the question of the legality of this Grand Chapter.

1868.

The Annual Convocation was held in Washington, Monday, November 9, Most Excellent Companion J. E. F. Holmead, Grand High Priest, presiding. All the subordinates represented. The Grand High Priest, in his address, refers at length to the late troubles, which he has not quite forgotten, and to our mind exhibits a little too much feeling.

At a resumed Communication, held November 30, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported through the Chairman, Companion B. B. French, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-eight Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, in the case of Brother J. P. L., an applicant for the Royal Arch degrees, who had already been rejected on account of physical disqualification, (having lost the

second and third fingers of the right hand, leaving the thumb and index finger complete, and most of the fourth finger,) after a very lengthy argument reported, that as to Brother J. P. L's physical defects, there is no objection to his receiving the degrees, "and that the question of physical disqualification is one in the determination of which each Chapter must judge for itself, being guided only by a sound discretion and an enlightened judgment as to the requirements of our Craft."

We agree with the latter part, that the Chapter should be the judge, but we cannot see how any Royal Arch Mason having in view the ancient landmarks of Masonry could report, and the Grand Chapter adopt, a resolution declaring such an applicant physically qualified.

We make a few extracts from the report of the Committee with which we cannot agree, believing that the candidate must be without blemish. It looks as if the report was made to cover this particular case.

Masonry of to-day is as much higher than Masonry of antiquity as mental development is higher than physical. Masonry, as originally divided into three divisions, Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, indicated by the very titles which distinguished the classes that qualifications differing entirely from those now required were made the requisites to advancement: service of years was required in the first degree before an Entered Apprentice could be admitted a Fellow Craft. The most careless observer of Masonry amongst us must see how greatly we differ in theory and practice from our ancient brethren. There was reason in the rule of ancient Masonry, but that reason has failed so far as we are concerned, and the rule goes with it. Our obligations, our monitors, our ritual and traditions, and the lights thrown upon our science, from whatever source, all serve to point out the distinguishing features of speculative or symbolic Masonry from Masonry in the rough ashlar, as it was when only operative.

Your Committee would not enter largely into a discussion of the question, yet they must be indulged in a few illustrations of their meaning.

When the Master Mason is clothed and instructed as to the implements pertaining to his rank, he is informed that all the implements known to the three degrees are his, but more especially the *trowel*. He is informed that it is an instrument made use of by *operative* Masons to spread the cement which unites a building into one common mass; but the charge continues: *We, as Free and Accepted Masons*, (not as operative Masons,) are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of *spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection*—that cement which unites us into one sacred band or society of friends and brothers. He is not instructed in the genius and spirit of Freemasonry who cannot see how different from and

more exalted is our profession, as shown in this charge, than the Masonry from which we are distinguished. *Our* trowel is a symbol, nothing more; and as such can be used with or without a perfect hand, leg or body, provided the *heart* is sound.

In the Mark Master's degree we are given the *chisel and mallet*, and are instructed as to their *moral* teachings, not how to use them physically; and we are further told that it is more particularly our duty to conduct ourselves so as to stand the test of the Grand Overseer's square, that *we*, not our *work*, may be found fit for the spiritual temple.

The Past Master is solemnly reminded that the time is coming when all distinctions shall cease but those of goodness; and in the charge a beautiful code of morals is condensed, and its observance enjoined, but of which a most skilful operative Mason might be utterly ignorant.

The admonitions to rectitude of conduct, and the like teachings, are intensified as we learn the duties of the two succeeding degrees; and, finally, the exalted Royal Arch Mason is reminded that no one could gain admission into so distinguishing a position without being forcibly struck with the important *lessons* taught in preceding degrees, and again is he reminded that the great duty before us is to promote each other's welfare, correct each other's failings by advice, admonition and reproof; and, apparently, having in view this very question as to whom we should recommend for these high degrees, the newly made Companion is admonished to recommend none for whom he cannot freely vouch, and whom he does not firmly believe will conform to the *principles* of our Order, and fulfil the *obligations of a Royal Arch Mason*.

The *principles* of our Order, we have seen, do not consist in actually tracing designs on the trestle-board, polishing the ashlar, spreading the cement, or laying the stones of a veritable building. The practice of our *principles* does not depend on a sound body, the avoirdupois of the Companion, or strength of his muscle. And it is believed that in no one of the degrees are physical qualifications made the slightest test of a Companion's ability to fulfil the *obligations*.

At no stage of the ceremony is the examining Committee called upon to subject the candidate to any such test. Furthermore, if it is our duty to reject upon this ground, it is our duty to make this examination, and if made, by what rule are we to be guided? Is the candidate who has lost a finger to be rejected, and the candidate who is dying with consumption admitted? Will a defective eye, a stiff joint, a club-foot, disqualify; while other and greater, though less perceivable, disabilities qualify? Are we a society of Apollos, and made up of form and figure? If so, an important and necessary appendage to the Order is an examining board of surgeons.

The Chapters were authorized to arrange suitable music to be used in conferring the several degrees.

The following was adopted, which shows signs of a bright future for this Grand Chapter; and we hope ere the time arrives for us to

make another report, that peace and unity will be found within the veils of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Resolved, That the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia does hereby rescind all resolutions, orders or edicts, heretofore adopted, made or issued by said Grand Chapter, or any of its officers, suspending or expelling any Companion or Companions, on account of the difficulties growing out of the formation of said Grand Chapter, and also the edict declaring Potomac Chapter clandestine; and hereby declares all such Companions restored to their standing in this Grand Chapter as Royal Arch Masons.

Companion B. B. FRENCH, of Washington, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion NOBLE D. LARNED, of Washington, *Grand Secretary*.

FLORIDA.

1868.

The Twenty-second Annual Convocation was held at Tallahassee, on Monday, January 13, Deputy Grand High Priest William Morrill presiding as Grand High Priest. A short communication from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest David Jones was read, notifying the Grand Chapter of the death of Past Grand High Priest Thomas Brown. He says of his labors as Grand High Priest "he has nothing to boast; that the times have not been as auspicious as he could desire; that encouragement to make strenuous efforts on his part had been extremely poor, owing to the almost ruinous poverty of the country."

We sincerely condole with our Companions in Florida in the dark past; we hope the future may be as bright as they could desire.

We notice that a charter was granted to a new Chapter, and immediately afterwards a Companion was installed as its High Priest. We were taught that the Chapter must be first constituted, and then the officers installed.

Most of the business transacted was of a local character. Companion James Ellenwood, Grand High Priest, and Companion Hugh A. Corley, Grand Secretary.

1869.

The Twenty-third Annual Convocation was held at Tallahassee, on Monday, June 11.

Grand Scribe M. M. T. Hutchinson, as Grand High Priest, opened the Grand Chapter in due form. The Grand High Priest, James Ellenwood, did not appear in the Grand Chapter until the third day, when he presented and read his annual address. He reports very little as having been done in his official capacity, owing to feeble health and press of business.

The Grand Chapter, by resolution, accepted the invitation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States to become a constituent member thereof, and pledged themselves to bear allegiance and support to said General Grand Chapter.

The sum of twenty-five dollars was appropriated to assist in the education of the child of a deceased Royal Arch Mason. A very commendable and charitable action.

In reviewing the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, it seems to us that there is wanted some active and energetic mind to infuse into it life and vigor.

Companion D. C. Dawkins furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence.

Companion DEWITT C. DAWKINS, of Jacksonville, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion EDWARD BRADFORD, Jr., of Tallahassee, *Grand Secretary*.

We hope to hear more cheering tidings from our sister of Florida when we make up our next report.

GEORGIA.

1869.

This Grand Chapter sends us the address of the Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion Samuel Lawrence, delivered April 28; also the report on Foreign Correspondence, by Companion J. Emmett Blackshear, M. D.

The address of the Grand High Priest calls the attention of the Companions to the great mission they have to fulfil as Royal Arch Masons, and of the example they should set their fellow-men to follow after the truth. Judging from the address, he seems to have been a very active officer, often visiting and instructing the Companions, and giving them good salutary advice when needed.

He decided that it was not legal to use "*substitutes*" in the Royal Arch degree; and that the rules governing trials in Sym-

bolic Lodges should be observed in charges preferred by any member of a Chapter.

The death of Most Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest Companion George L. Barry was announced in fitting terms.

In the report on Foreign Correspondence we read, "Pennsylvania never honors us with her proceedings." In justification of ourselves, we would say that the "Abstract of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania" is mailed regularly as published to all our sister Grand Chapters; if they have not been received, it is not our fault. We would also state that the present Address of the Grand High Priest and Report on Foreign Correspondence is the first we have heard from the Grand Chapter of Georgia for many years. We shall do *our* duty in the future; do you do *yours*.

No record of officers elected or of the proceedings.

ILLINOIS.

1867.

The Eighteenth Annual Convocation was held in Springfield, Friday, October 4, Most Excellent Companion Orlin H. Miner, Grand High Priest, presiding. Eighty-seven subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, reciting his actions as presiding officer during the past year. He had issued dispensations to eleven new Chapters. Makes several recommendations to the Grand Chapter—one to designate the length of time a rejected applicant must wait before he can petition again, the Grand Chapter deciding that after twelve months the applicant could apply again; the other in regard to the work. The death of Past Grand High Priest Michael J. Noyes is reported.

A resolution was adopted directing all Chapters to confer the degree of Past Master on all candidates before advancing them to the Most Excellent degree.

Two hundred dollars was granted as charity.

The following were also adopted:

Resolved, That any Companion shall have the right, at any time, to object to the advancement of a candidate in his Chapter, and that it shall be unlawful to advance such candidate until the objection is removed.

Resolved, That the Grand High Priest be requested to notify those Chap-

ters that have exalted a less number of candidates at one time than is lawful that they are violating their Masonic obligations, and are liable to be dealt with.

Resolved, That the conferring of the Royal Arch degree on less than three actual candidates at a time is hereby expressly forbidden by this Grand Chapter; and if any Chapter violates this resolution, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest at once to arrest its charter.

Most Excellent Companion George W. Lininger, Grand High Priest, and Most Excellent Companion Harman G. Reynolds, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Nineteenth Annual Convocation was held in Springfield, on Friday, October 9, Most Excellent George W. Lininger, Grand High Priest, in the East. Ninety-four subordinates represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest is quite lengthy, and notices all his official actions during the year just passed. Seventeen dispensations for new Chapters had been granted. Many dispensations were granted to *waive the matter of time, and act upon petitions*. The High Priest of a Chapter had been deposed on charges preferred, and an election ordered for a new High Priest. Many suggestions were offered, and subsequently acted upon by the Grand Chapter by resolutions:

Resolved, That each subordinate Chapter within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall purge itself of intemperance and profanity; and that it be the duty of this Grand Chapter to arrest the charter of any Chapter failing to comply with this resolution.

Resolved, That this Grand Royal Arch Chapter so interpret Section 7, of Article III, of the Constitution, as to make it obligatory upon Chapters to give notice of rejections, expulsions and suspensions, in like manner and to the same extent as is now done by the Lodges.

Resolved, That candidates for promotion be required to pass a thorough examination on the preceding degree, in open Chapter, before being advanced.

Resolved, That every petitioner for the Chapter degrees be required hereafter to state in his petition whether or not he has ever before petitioned for the Chapter degrees within this jurisdiction, and if so, to what Chapter, and the result of the same; and in case such petition has been rejected, he shall not be received unless recommended by a unanimous vote of the Chapter rejecting him.

The latter a wise and just regulation.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Companion H. G. Reynolds, Grand Secretary. Among the Grand Chapters

reviewed we find Pennsylvania. Quite lengthy quotations are made from Most Excellent Companion Grand King George Griscom's eulogy on Companion W. H. Adams, and the address of Grand High Priest Perkins before Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3, of Philadelphia.

Most Excellent Companion JAMES H. MILES, of Chicago, *Grand High Priest*.

Most Excellent Companion HARMAN G. REYNOLDS, of Springfield, *Grand Secretary*.

INDIANA.

1868.

Twenty-third Annual Communication was held in Fort Wayne, Wednesday, October 21. Most Excellent Companion Thomas Newby, Grand High Priest, read his annual address, informing the Grand Chapter of his official acts during the year past. The death was announced of Past Grand High Priest Isaac Bartlett, who was one of the delegates who formed and organized the Grand Chapter. Dispensations were granted for several new Chapters. He recommended that the charters of several subordinate Chapters be arrested for failing, for several years, to make returns, and for non-payment of dues. He thinks that at least one-half of the entire membership of the symbolic or blue Lodges would become Royal Arch Masons, were the proper opportunities presented. The discharge of the District Deputies was recommended, and the appointment suggested of some well-qualified Companion, to be appointed by the Grand Chapter, whose duty it should be to instruct the subordinate Chapters in the *work*—not very complimentary to the District Deputies.

The following opinion, reported by a select Committee, was concurred in:

Your Committee are of opinion that the power to grant dispensations, vested in the Grand High Priest, may be used with profit to the Craft, when used judiciously; nevertheless, the abuse of that power is fraught with great evil, and that continually.

Two aged Companions, who had assisted at the formation of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, one of whom had been a Royal Arch Mason for fifty-one years, were, on motion, by a rising vote unani-

mously declared *honorary members* of the Grand Chapter, entitled to all the rights and privileges of any of its members, and to receive pay per diem and mileage when present and participating in the labors of the Grand Chapter.

The following resolutions, having particular reference to the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, were, after due consideration, adopted, and the resolution referred to rescinded:

Whereas, At the Annual Communication of this Grand Chapter, held in the city of Indianapolis, May 24, 1866, upon the report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, the following resolutions, as found on pages 24 and 25 of the printed proceedings of that year, were adopted:

Resolved, That the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter be requested to correspond with the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, and urge upon him the justice and propriety of repealing the said Article XV, Letter F, Section 12, referred to herein.

Resolved, That this Grand Royal Arch Chapter declares that Royal Arch Masons, made in the manner and in conformity with said Article XV, Letter F, Section 12, are clandestine in this Grand Jurisdiction, and are not entitled to, and are hereby prohibited from, visiting or affiliating with our subordinate Chapters; and,

Whereas, The Grand Chapter in concurring in the report of the Committee, and adopting the resolutions offered, assumed to sit in judgment upon the constitution and laws of a sister Grand Chapter, and condemn, without a hearing, as clandestine, the work of one of her subordinates, done in strict accordance with the laws under which she was acting, and upon mere *ex parte* statements forbidding recognition in this jurisdiction of the work legally performed in another jurisdiction, and thus deprive innocent parties of their just rights: therefore, in order that the parties interested may have a proper hearing in the case, be it

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions, and the report upon which they were founded, be and the same are hereby rescinded.

The proceedings of the Council of High Priests, and the Code of Rules of the same, are published in the proceedings before us, and we extract the following from the Code of Rules:

SEC. 10. No Companion shall be eligible to the order of High Priesthood until he shall have been duly elected High Priest of a subordinate Chapter duly organized under charter.

SEC. 11. All applications for the order of High Priesthood must be made in writing, at an annual or stated Communication of the Council, accompanied by a certificate, under seal of the Grand or subordinate Chapter, certifying that the applicant has been duly elected High Priest of a subordinate Chapter, duly organized under charter. Such application must then

be referred to a Committee for investigation. Upon the report of the Committee, a ballot shall be had, when, should one negative vote appear, the applicant will be rejected.

SEC. 12. For the purposes of defraying the expenses of the Council, each applicant, previous to his admission, must pay to the Recorder the sum of one dollar.

SEC. 13. Each Companion, on receiving the order of High Priesthood, upon the payment of the further sum of fifty cents, shall be entitled to receive a diploma, signed by the President, Vice-President and Recorder, with the seal of the Council affixed thereto.

SEC. 14. Any Companion High Priest, residing within this jurisdiction, who may have received the order of High Priesthood in another jurisdiction, may become a member of this Council, by making application therefor, and being elected by a unanimous vote of the members present.

SEC. 16. The application of a Companion for the order of High Priesthood, merely because he holds the office of High Priest in a subordinate Chapter, is in strong terms disapproved ; and we desire to impress upon the minds of those aspiring to the honor of this order, that proficiency in the Chapter work, and a devoted attachment to and proficiency in the duties of the office, combined with an unexceptionable moral character, can alone entitle them to the honors of this order.

A Past Grand High Priest's jewel was voted to Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest William Hacker.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is by Companion Thomas Newby. Under the head of "Pennsylvania," we note that the proceedings of Pennsylvania had not been received, but that a Companion favored the chairman with a sight of our proceedings, and the report on Correspondence of our Companion William H. Allen on the complaint of the Grand Chapter of Indiana, on the question of jurisdiction. Speaking of the resolutions adopted in 1867, (see page 53 of last published proceedings of Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania,) he says:

This resolution was adopted. Not having received any official notice of the above action, save through the printed copy, we must be satisfied with this explanation. "Our thanks are due the sister Grand Chapter for the willingness shown to soothe our umbrage, 'and avoid all further unpleasantness.'"

Most Excellent Companion Harvey G. Hazelrigg, Grand High Priest, and Companion John M. Bramwell, Grand Secretary ; Companion William Hacker, the late Grand Secretary, asking to be relieved from the further duties of the office of Grand Secretary.

1869.

Twenty-fourth Annual Communication was held in Franklin, Wednesday, October 20, 1869, Most Excellent Harvey G. Hazelrigg, Grand High Priest. The address of the Grand High Priest is quite lengthy, covering twenty-four pages, in which he reviews not only the transactions in his own but in sister jurisdictions.

Speaking of the great care that should be exercised in the examination of applicants for the Royal Arch degrees, he says:

Let the overseers carefully examine all the materials brought up for the building—see that they are properly squared, numbered and marked, and accept none, however singular the form or beautiful the proportions, unless it is calculated to sustain the strength and preserve the beauty of the whole structure. No matter how comely or inviting it may have appeared while lying in the quarry, yet if it cannot be improved by the application of the chisel and mallet—has been defaced or cracked in its transportation, or will yield to the action of the frost or atmosphere, better consign it to its appropriate place—among the rubbish.

We agree with our Most Excellent Companion Hazelrigg in what he says on

THE USE OF SUBSTITUTES

In the Royal Arch degree is rejected by some of our sister Grand Chapters; by so many that courtesy to them and respect for ourselves would seem to require that we should examine the matter more closely and ascertain whether we are correct in our practice of using them. In the installation ceremonies of a High Priest he is required to promise that he “will never suffer more nor less than three brethren to be exalted in his Chapter at one and the same time.” At the Convocation of our Grand Chapter in 1866, we struck out the words, “be exalted,” and inserted, “pass through the ceremonies”—a change that was, perhaps, unnecessary and amounted to nothing, as it was only a change of words, without a change of practice. The solution of this whole matter depends upon the fact whether a man can be exalted more than once. From analogy, and from every view I am able to take of it, I am forced to the conclusion that he can, and indeed I think it probable that repeated exaltations would not put some men higher nor better than they ought to be.

At the first outset in the search of light in the Masonic vineyard, we teach candidates that it is individual merit that is the safe and only passport to promotion; or, in other words, that every tub stands upon its own bottom. But if our system of practice is not correct, he may find to his lasting sorrow and disappointment that, just as he has arrived in sight of the promised land, his permission to enter depends upon the merits or tardy movements, or both, of some person less meritorious than himself, and that he must either level himself down to a lower standard, or level somebody

else up even with his merits, or die as did Moses on Pisgah's top, without being permitted to enter and enjoy. If the use of substitutes is a violation of a landmark, that at once ends the question, and it must be abandoned. Not viewing it in that light, but only as a question of expediency, and the existence of Chapters in the rural districts depending upon the practice, I see no good reason for abandoning it; but on the contrary many for its continuance in our jurisdiction. The reference to "Ancient Landmarks," as they regard American Royal Arch Masonry, do not evince a very reliable knowledge of what "Ancient Landmarks" are.

The use of *substitutes* or *proxies* in the Royal Arch degree is one that has caused and will cause a vast amount of discussion and opinions, pro and con. In Pennsylvania, we are taught to practice Masonry as we received it; and that which has received the sanction, approval, and practice of many years, has, in one sense of the word, become an ancient regulation or landmark. The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania has not yet seen the evils (if there are any) in the use of substitutes. A brother who has applied for the Royal Arch degrees, been approved, received the Mark and Most Excellent Master's degrees, if still under the tongue of good Masonic report, by right and justice is entitled forthwith to receive what he has petitioned and paid for and what he was elected to.

Among the decisions made, we find :

The High Priest of a Chapter is suspended for the non-payment of dues to the Lodge, by the Lodge of which he is a member; afterwards pays the dues, thereby, as the law then stood, restoring himself to membership in his Lodge: is he by that act restored to membership in the Chapter and to his office of High Priest?

Answer.—He is neither restored to membership nor office in the Chapter. Rule 198, for the government of subordinate Chapters, says, "that a suspension or expulsion, for *any cause*, by a Lodge of Master Masons, is effectually a suspension or expulsion from a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and must be so regarded by every Chapter in this jurisdiction." A suspension or expulsion, while in force, precludes all Masonic intercourse whatever. The Companion being suspended by the Lodge, was instantaneously so situated that no Masonic intercourse could be indulged in with him by any Companion. Ceasing to be a member of the Chapter, he ceased to be an officer, and no act of his towards the Lodge, or of the Lodge itself, could have any effect in regard to his restoration in the Chapter, there being no law in our jurisdiction to that effect. By the action of the Lodge, he was by the laws of the Grand Chapter affected in his membership in the subordinate Chapter; but we have no law of the Grand Chapter providing for his restoration to a Chapter by any action of or in a Lodge.

The Grand High Priest reviews the proceedings of sister Grand Chapters, and reports on them in his address.

Most Excellent Companion HARVEY G. HAZELRIGG, of Lebanon, *Grand High Priest*.

Right Excellent Companion JOHN M. BRAMWELL, of Indianapolis, *Grand Secretary*.

IOWA.

1867.

Thirteenth Grand Annual Convocation held in Davenport, October 17. Most Excellent Companion H. H. Hemenway, Grand High Priest, presiding. In his annual address he states that he had granted a large number of dispensations to subordinate Chapters to ballot for and confer degrees upon candidates "at such regular and special convocation as they might deem proper."

Decisions were made on several subjects of local interest. One was:

That a Chapter having received the brother's petition in good faith and acted on same, were ready to confer the degrees at any suitable time, and the brother moving away, could not legally demand his fees returned. The Chapter could do so, if they wished, as an act of courtesy.

The Grand Chapter, after due consideration and discussion, decided *not* to rescind the resolution adopted in 1860, severing their connection with the General Grand Chapter. Report on Foreign Correspondence by Companion E. A. Guilbert. Most Excellent Companion H. H. Hemenway, Grand High Priest, and Excellent Companion W. B. Langridge, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Fourteenth Grand Annual Conclave was held in Des Moines, Friday, October 16. Right Excellent Companion J. W. Satterthwaite, Grand King, as Grand High Priest, opened the Grand Chapter. The Grand Secretary read the address of the Grand High Priest, which refers principally to the dispensations he had issued during the past year.

It was resolved that the using of substitutes in the subordinate Chapters in conferring the Royal Arch degree be expressly prohibited.

A resolution adopted in 1867 ordering a public installation was *rescinded*. Very just. It surprises us to learn that any Companion was thoughtless enough to offer a resolution of the kind. With as much propriety it might be ordered to have a public exaltation.

The question, who is the proper grand officer to preside over the deliberations of the Grand Chapter in the absence of the Grand High Priest, was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, with directions that they define the powers of the Deputy Grand High Priest. That Committee reported :

In relation to the power, duties and prerogatives of the Deputy Grand High Priest, in the absence of the Grand High Priest, your Committee are firmly of the opinion that all the powers possessed by the Grand High Priest must of necessity, in case of his absence, fall upon the deputy, for this, among other reasons : The Priesthood was alone confined to the tribe of Levi, and no one not of that tribe was permitted to aspire to or assume the duties and responsibilities of the High Priesthood under any pretence whatever. Not even the King, under the Mosaic law, although clothed with absolute power over his subjects, was allowed to meddle with the duties of the Priesthood, or even to touch the vestments thereof, without incurring the displeasure of the Almighty. Even the ark of the covenant was not allowed to be borne or touched by any except by those of the tribe of Levi ; and Uzzah, for his temerity in putting forth his hand to steady the ark, was struck dead, and Korah, Dathan and Abiram, for their presumption in assuming the prerogatives of the priestly office, met with a similar fate. With these views, your Committee believe that the Deputy Grand High Priest, being an appointment from the Grand Council for a specific object, and not the King, should preside in the absence of the Grand High Priest.

The following report from the same Committee we cannot agree with :

“Is a Mark Master Mason made in England eligible to the balance of the Chapter degrees in a Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter?” We reply, yes ; but as independent Mark Lodges are not recognized in this jurisdiction, it is first necessary that he be formally healed.

In Pennsylvania, separate Mark Lodges are warranted, and all work done by them under that warrant is regular and lawful. Do we understand our Companions in Iowa to say that a Mark Master Mason, member of a lawfully warranted Mark Lodge in this juris-

diction, must first be formally healed before he is eligible to the balance of the Chapter degrees in Iowa?

A Committee was appointed with full power to receive communications from the Grand Council of Iowa tending to restore to the Grand Chapter the control of the Cryptic degrees. There is no report on Foreign Correspondence.

Most Excellent Companion PITKIN C. WRIGHT, of Dewitt, *Grand High Priest*.

Right Excellent Companion WILLIAM B. LANGRIDGE, of Muscatine, *Grand Secretary*.

KANSAS.

1867.

Second Annual Convocation held in Leavenworth, Wednesday, October 16, Most Excellent Companion R. R. Rees, Grand High Priest, presiding. In the annual address the death of Companions Jacob Sayre and Theodore G. Harris is announced in a feeling manner. He reports that harmony prevails and "that scarcely any questions are propounded."

Companion E. T. Carr furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence. A decision by the Committee on Jurisprudence was adopted, as follows:

"Can a brother who has been elected to receive the capitular degrees, and who has been advanced to the degree of Mark Master Mason, be prevented from advancing upon objections made by a Companion without giving his reasons for so doing, or preferring charges?" We answer that, in our opinion, he can be so prevented from advancing.

The subject of mitre received the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is recommended that all subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction shall adopt and use the form of mitre worn by the High Priests of the Jews.

A very pleasant episode was the partaking of the hospitalities of a supper given by the ladies of the Masonic families of Leavenworth. The Grand Secretary notes "the occasion as a happy reunion long to be remembered by all present." Most Excellent Companion R. R. Rees, Grand High Priest, and Companion E. T. Carr, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Fourth Annual Convocation was held in Lawrence, Monday, October 19, Right Excellent E. A. Smith, as Grand High Priest, presiding, Grand High Priest Rees not being present until the evening session. He states in his annual address that "he has received no letters of complaint—not even of inquiry—except on non-essential points," that the year just closed had been void of interesting incidents at home, and that but one dispensation had been granted.

The Grand Chapters of District of Columbia and Nebraska were recognized. The report on Foreign Correspondence is once more from the pen of Companion Carr. The proceedings of a large number of sister Grand Chapters are reviewed; Pennsylvania *not* among the number.

A full set of Grand Chapter jewels and aprons was ordered.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the subordinate Chapters under this Grand jurisdiction be and they are hereby directed to discontinue the practice of conferring the degrees of Capitular Masonry on non-affiliating Masons.

Most Excellent Companion C. A. BASSETT, of Lawrence,
Grand High Priest.

Right Excellent Companion E. T. CARR, of Leavenworth,
Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY.

1867.

Grand Annual Convocation held in Louisville, October 21, Most Excellent J. H. Branham, Grand High Priest, presiding. Seventy-one subordinate Chapters represented. From the annual address of the Grand High Priest we extract:

EMERGENCY CASES.

I have received numerous applications for dispensations to confer degrees out of time. Where they have been clearly cases of emergency, and have been represented to me as such by enlightened Royal Arch Masons, I have granted permission, as has been customary. I have refused permission, however, to a number of such applications from the fact that I could see no emergency in the cases presented; and as the law requiring an interval of one month to elapse between the reception of the petition and the con-

ference of the degrees was made for wise purposes and by more enlightened Masons than myself, I saw no reason why I should *practically nullify the law by granting dispensations which had that effect* without good and sufficient reasons.

THE WORK IN THE CHAPTER DEGREES.

Their labors have been confined to small portions of the State ; much yet remains to be done : many errors to be corrected, some excrescences to be pruned off, and some omissions to be supplied. The Chapter degrees are long and laborious, and require some study to properly understand, and much time to confer them. For want of time, the officers frequently hurry through the work, and so abridge it, until they have only presented a mere skeleton, which cannot satisfy an intelligent, thinking and educated mind—one which goes into the Order to gain possession of its great truths, the meaning of its sublime symbols and allegories. The Royal Arch degree, as conferred by some Chapters, resembles more a well-performed farce than what it is.

VESTMENTS OF HIGH PRIESTS.

I find that, in a large number of our Chapters, the High Priests wear a mitre, sometimes surmounted by a cross, and made in imitation of that worn by Roman Catholic prelates, bearing no resemblance whatever to the mitre of a Jewish High Priest, after which they should be modelled. All will admit that there should be, as far as practicable, a harmonious correspondence between the vestments of our principal officers and that of the persons they represent. If our High Priests are expected to wear robes of various colors, and a breastplate resembling that worn by the Jewish High Priest, then our mitres should also resemble that worn by the same officer of the ancient Jewish polity. I entertain as profound a veneration for the cross, and all it is intended to signify and symbolize, as any man ; but the mitre of a Roman Catholic prelate, surmounted by a cross, is entirely out of place on the head of a Jewish High Priest, or any officer representing him in any Chapter or Council of Ancient Free Masonry—as much so as the breastplate would be on a Christian Bishop, or a sacrificial altar within his sanctuary—as much so as a cross would be suspended around the neck of a Jewish Rabbi, or a Moslem crescent gleaming from the tower of his synagogue.

A resolution was adopted that Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters and Most Excellent Masters cannot be called from labor to refreshment, but must in all cases be closed so soon as the work is finished for which they were called.

Companion A. G. Hodges gives us the report on Foreign Communications.

Most Excellent Companion Isaac T. Martin, Grand High Priest, and Companion P. Swigert, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Grand Annual Convocation held in Louisville, October 19, Most Excellent Isaac T. Martin, Grand High Priest, presiding. Seventy-nine subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand High Priest, in his address, communicated the tidings of the death of Past Grand High Priest Rev. W. H. Forsythe, whose name had almost become a household word in Royal Arch Masonry in Kentucky. Perfect peace and harmony throughout the jurisdiction was reported.

The following was presented, to which the Grand Chapter responded "No," unanimously:

The present High Priest of Frankfort Chapter, No. 3, having recently decided in said Chapter he had the power, as such, to surrender the charter thereof at his pleasure, in opposition to the expressed opinion (to the contrary) of a majority of its members, and from which opinion an appeal was taken to the Grand Chapter—

Question. Has a presiding High Priest such power?

No report on Foreign Correspondence.

Most Excellent Companion RICHARD G. HAWKINS, of Louisville, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion P. SWIGERT, of Frankfort, *Grand Secretary*.

LOUISIANA.

1868.

Twenty-first Annual Convocation held in New Orleans, February 11, Most Excellent Companion H. P. Buckley, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, presiding. Eleven subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand High Priest stated that he had installed the officers of a Chapter in public; also, that he had issued a dispensation to a Chapter under dispensation, to cover the action of the Grand Lecturer in dispensing with the time in case of twelve brethren, candidates for membership, not considering that he had the authority. He decided, if an objection be communicated to the High Priest of a Chapter, and by him considered of sufficient weight, it would be his duty to order a new ballot, and at once; but an unfavorable ballot could not be reconsidered. We differ with the first part of this decision. Masonic law requires, if we understand it correctly, that an objection made before the con-

ferring of Entered Apprentice or Mark Master degree is a bar to further advancement, and the objection remains until removed by the objector. We have always been taught to look upon an objection as worse than a black ball.

Report on Foreign Correspondence by Companion W. W. Leake.

The Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence reported a resolution, which was adopted by the Grand Chapter, permitting balloting for candidates at a called meeting of the Chapter, providing that the members have been notified.

Companion Samuel M. Todd, Grand High Priest, and Companion James C. Batchelor, M. D., Grand Secretary.

1869.

Twenty-second Annual Convocation, held in New Orleans, February 9, Most Excellent Companion Samuel M. Todd, Grand High Priest, presiding. Seventeen subordinate Chapters represented. The deaths of Past Grand High Priest Henry Regenburg and Past High Priest Willis Coleman were announced. The address of the Grand High Priest is a recapitulation of his official actions during the year past. The Grand and subordinate Chapters attended *en masse* at the laying of the corner-stone of the new tomb of Louisiana Relief Lodge, No. 1. The report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of Most Excellent Companion Joseph P. Horner, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania among the number.

Resolutions were adopted, declaring it as the opinion of the Grand Chapter that the General Grand Chapter *had become useless, might become dangerous, and ought to cease to exist.*

The proceedings state that the Grand Chapter was so well satisfied with the elective Grand Officers that they were re-elected and the appointed officers reappointed.

All the Masonic books belonging to the Grand Chapter were donated to the Grand Lodge library.

Masonic correspondence and fraternal relations with the Grand Orient of France were discontinued.

Most Excellent Companion SAMUEL M. TODD, of New Orleans, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JAMES C. BATCHELOR, M. D., of New Orleans, *Grand Secretary.*

MAINE.

1868.

Annual Convocation held in Portland, Monday, May 4, Most Excellent Josiah H. Drummond, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty-five subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand High Priest calls attention to the use of *substitutes*, as being at variance with the rules of the Grand Chapter.

He had constituted and installed the officers of several Chapters, two of which were in public, saying that the occasions were rendered more pleasant and useful than they generally are.

Decisions were made as follows :

Chapters are not authorized to confer the degrees on clergymen without fee. A by-law to that effect would be in contravention of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and void.

Objections by a member of the Chapter to a candidate after he is accepted and *before any degree is conferred on him* are equivalent to a rejection, and it should be so recorded.

When a candidate is rejected by one Chapter, and afterward removes into the jurisdiction of another, either Chapter may receive his petition with the consent of the other expressed in the manner prescribed in the Constitution.

When a candidate is rejected by objections made after a favorable ballot, his petition cannot be withdrawn. When the objection is made, he is as fully and completely rejected as if the ballot had not been clear.

In such a case the objector need not give his reasons ; nor has any one the right to disclose his name. I should hold it to be a grave offence, to be visited with summary and severe punishment, if any Royal Arch Mason (without the express consent of the objector) should do any act with a view of pointing him out so that he could be recognized, whether by declaring his own action or inquiring concerning the action of another.

When a member of a Chapter notifies the officer who is to preside at a stated meeting that he must be absent from such meeting, but if present should vote against accepting a candidate who is to be balloted for, it is the duty of such presiding officer either to postpone the ballot to another meeting, or to declare that objections having been made by a member of the Chapter to the acceptance of the candidate, he is declared rejected.

Reports are made by the elected Grand Officers.

Most Excellent Companion Oliver Gerrish, Grand Treasurer for thirty-seven years, (except during three years, when he served as Grand High Priest,) declined a re-election.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is by Most Excellent

Grand High Priest Josiah H. Drummond, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-five Grand Chapters. Under the head of "Pennsylvania," we find:

We have no Proceedings of this Grand Chapter since 1864, nor can we ascertain who the officers are; yet we believe she "still lives;" for we find by the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge that the Grand Master had granted during the year, to the Chapters, 426 dispensations "to pass the Chair." This is a feature peculiar to Pennsylvania. We wonder if by virtue of this dispensation Chapter Past Masters are regarded as *actual* Past Masters.

We beg leave to correct some portions of the above and set our Companion Drummond right. The Grand Master issues dispensations to subordinate Lodges of Master Masons to pass to the Chair. The Chapters have nothing at all to do with "passing to the Chair." We make the qualification of the candidate to be that he is a Past Master, either by service or dispensation. We have no Chapter Past Masters.

The Grand High Priest made the following decision, which was sustained by the Grand Chapter:

A petition is presented, and, no question being raised as to its being in proper form, is referred to the Committee of Inquiry. They find that it does not make any allegation whether the petitioner has ever before petitioned for the degrees. If he had done so, and was rejected, the Chapter had no jurisdiction without the consent of the rejecting Chapter.

The Chapter directed that the petition be returned to him for amendment in that particular. It was returned for that purpose, and the petitioner was so informed. But as some matters affecting his standing in the community had then come to light, he was conscious that he would be rejected. Consequently he refused to amend his petition *or to return it*.

I directed the High Priest to cause a demand to be made upon him for the return of his petition, and if he refused to return it to have the record made of the facts, and that he be declared rejected and so returned to the Grand Secretary.

Authority was given to a subordinate Chapter to heal a Companion made in an army Chapter.

Companion James M. Larabee, Grand High Priest, and Companion Ira Berry, Grand Secretary.

1869.

Annual Convocation held, Tuesday, May 4, in Portland, Most Excellent James M. Larabee, Grand High Priest, pre-

siding. Thirty subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand High Priest reports that he had issued dispensations for conferring the degrees, in less time than one month after reception of petition; also, to a subordinate Chapter, to appear in public procession. A Chapter was constituted and its officers installed in public, before an audience of Royal Arch Masons and ladies.

We find but one decision with which we differ, and that is:

When the High Priest, King and Scribe of any subordinate Chapter are absent, no Companion is competent to open said Chapter, unless commissioned so to do by one of the three officers of the Chapter, or by one of the first four officers of the Grand Chapter.

The warrant is issued to the High Priest, King and Scribe, and their successors, and only these officers can open the Chapter; in their absence it cannot be opened, and they cannot commission any one to open in their absence.

The Deputy Grand High Priest decided that a Chapter cannot be constituted and its officers installed by proxy.

An amendment to the Constitution, appointing District Deputy Grand High Priests, was adopted.

Resolutions were adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That the candidates who are actual Past Masters must, nevertheless, take the Past Master's degree in the Chapter.

Is there any difference in the ritual of actual and virtual Past Masters?

Resolved, That the use of "*substitutes*" in conferring the Royal Arch degree is strictly prohibited; and if any violation of this regulation shall come to the knowledge of the Grand High Priest, it shall be his duty to discipline the offending Chapter.

The decease of Past Grand High Priests John Williams and Samuel Fessenden is announced.

Companion Drummond furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing thirty-four Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included.

Of Pennsylvania he speaks in a very kind manner. He seems to have studied Pennsylvania Royal Arch Masonry, and gives quite an interesting history of the working of our Grand Chapter. He says:

Pennsylvania Royal Arch Masonry is quite an anomaly. It differs largely, if not essentially, from that of the rest of the United States. The

members are large-hearted, whole-souled men, fully imbued with the spirit of Masonry. But yet, as a body, they are exclusive, seeming to think that Pennsylvania Masonry is perfect and every thing differing from them is wrong ; but they keep it to themselves in its perfection, and allow everybody else to do the same. They publish but little, and we may defy any one to find out much of their condition from what they do publish.

Most Excellent Companion JOS. PEARSON GILL, of Lewiston,
Grand High Priest.

Companion IRA BERRY, of Portland, *Grand Secretary.*

MARYLAND AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

1867.

Special Convocation held March 26 and 27, Most Excellent Companion James G. Smith, Grand High Priest, presiding. Seven subordinate Chapters represented. At this Convocation, action was taken upon the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. After a variety of motions, arresting of charters, suspension of officers, &c., the following was offered, and adopted by a vote of 27 ayes to 3 nays :

Whereas, The time having now arrived when the interests of Capitular Masonry require a division of this Grand Chapter, and that the District of Columbia should constitute a separate jurisdiction : therefore,

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter gives its full and cordial consent to a separation of the jurisdiction, and to the establishment of a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia ; and when said Grand Chapter is legally formed and constituted, the separation shall be complete, and the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter over the District of Columbia shall cease.

At a Special Convocation, held May 16, the Grand High Priest stated that, deeming a final separation of jurisdiction essential, he had called the Grand Chapter together for that purpose. He also submitted a copy of the correspondence between Most Excellent Companion George C. Whiting, Grand Master Mason of Washington, and Most Excellent Companion John L. Lewis, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, in which consent was granted for the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. After due deliberation, and amendments, a resolution was adopted, by 26 ayes to 6 nays, that the division of the jurisdiction is hereby declared to be complete. The Grand High Priest, being a mem-

ber of a Chapter in the District of Columbia, stated that he would no longer be able to preside over them, and resigned his station to the Deputy Grand High Priest, Companion William A. Wentz.

At a Special Convocation, held June 4, the name and style of the Grand Chapter was changed to that of the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

The Annual Convocation was held Monday, November 11, Most Excellent Companion William A. Wentz, Deputy Grand High Priest, presiding. Nine subordinate Chapters represented.

Resolutions were adopted, declaring the proceedings of the Special Convocation in March and May, so far as they apply to a division of jurisdiction, to be irregular and illegal—the vote being 18 ayes to 4 nays.

This is as near as we can arrive at the history of the division of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia. We have no comments to make on the above, not desiring to interfere in the affairs of a sister jurisdiction. Many unkind words were said; no doubt, cause of offence was given on both sides; but we fear that the Masonic trowel was not used to “spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, that cement which unites us into one sacred band of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should arise but that noble contention or emulation of who best can work and best agree.”

Companion John L. Yeates, Grand High Priest, and Companion William A. Wentz, Grand Secretary.

Companion E. L. Stevens furnished the report on Foreign Correspondence.

1868.

Annual Convocation held November 9, Most Excellent Companion John L. Yeates, Grand High Priest, presiding. Ten subordinate Chapters represented. The address of the Grand High Priest refers principally to the domestic troubles of the Grand Chapter, and reviews in a bitter manner the action of the General Grand Chapter in recognizing the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

On this subject, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the action of the General Grand Chapter of the United States in regard to the District of Columbia is in direct violation of its Constitution, and therefore null and of no effect, and has no binding force.

Resolved, That a State Grand Chapter has no right to violate its Constitution and adhere to such action ; and that the General Grand Chapter is more restricted in this respect.

Resolved, That we request the several State Grand Chapters to review their action, and take into consideration all the facts in the case, and adopt measures in accordance therewith.

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter believes that she has now placed herself in her proper position, and will maintain her rightful authority over every foot of the original territory of the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That the sentence heretofore pronounced by this Grand Chapter against her recusant subordinates and their members is hereby reaffirmed, and all those true to their allegiance are required to take due notice thereof and act accordingly.

Companion Charles H. Ohr, Grand High Priest, and Companion William A. Wentz, Grand Secretary.

Companion E. L. Stevens reviews the proceedings of twenty Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania among the number. Speaking of our jurisdiction, he says :

This Sylvan Grand Chapter does not often open her shell to "outsiders," and when she does it is with great caution. The view now offered is full of beauty and harmony, affording a bountiful supply of useful and profitable subjects for reflection and study. Her caution and prudence might, to a certain degree, be usefully imitated by others.

The report on Correspondence (and just here is a point : why say "Foreign ?" are we foreigners and strangers to each other, or are we one common brotherhood ?) is from the pen of Companion William H. Allen. It is full of good sense and Masonic spirit.

1869.

Annual Convocation held November 8, Companion Charles H. Ohr, Grand High Priest, presiding. Nine subordinate Chapters represented. We are pleased to notice an improvement in the proceedings now before us. The past has in a great measure been forgotten. The address of the Grand High Priest breathes a purer Masonry. He reports peace and harmony in the jurisdiction ; calls attention to uniformity of work and ritual ; states that his Grand Chapter is just as deficient in the truth and uniformity of the work as any other. The Grand Chapter is asked to remove the questionable practice of conferring the Council or Cryptic degrees in the Chapters.

It gives us pleasure to report the following resolution as having been adopted :

Whereas, Difficulties have heretofore existed between the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia and the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, arising from the fact that in the view of this Grand Chapter the amendment to its Constitution necessary to give validity to the release of a portion of its territory was not lawfully adopted ; and

Whereas, In view of the fact of the recognition of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and by a majority of, if not all, the State Grand Chapters, and of the desire of this Grand Chapter to pay due respect to the judgments of the General Grand Chapter, and the wishes of the several State Grand Chapters, and to cultivate amicable and fraternal relations with all its peers, as well as to promote the harmony and unity of Royal Arch Masonry, notwithstanding the belief of its membership that its just rights in the premises have been overlooked : does hereby

Resolve, 1. That the Grand Constitution be amended by striking therefrom so much as relates to the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter over the territory of the District of Columbia.

Resolved, 2. That this Grand Chapter does hereby waive and relinquish its jurisdictional rights over the District of Columbia, so long as it remains the seat of the National Government ; and also does hereby recognize the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia as a regular Grand Chapter, and entitled to all the rights and privileges of its peers throughout the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Resolved, 3. That henceforth the title of this Grand Chapter shall be the "Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Maryland."

Resolved, 4. That all resolutions heretofore passed by this Grand Chapter inconsistent with these resolutions be and the same are hereby repealed.

Companion E. L. Stevens again furnishes the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-four Grand Chapters. Under the head of "Pennsylvania," he reprints Companion Drummond's report to the Grand Chapter of Maine.

Companion CHARLES H. OHR, M. D., of Cumberland, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion WILLIAM A. WENTZ, of Baltimore, *Grand Secretary*.

MASSACHUSETTS.

1867.

Stated Convocations were held March 12, June 11, and December 10 ; and the Annual Convocation September 10, Most Excellent Companion Richard Briggs, Grand High Priest, presiding. Eighteen subordinate Chapters represented.

A resolution was adopted, requesting the Grand High Priest to

cause each Chapter to be visited at least once in each year, by appointing suitable persons, under the seal of the Grand Chapter, whose duty it shall be to visit such Chapters as the Grand High Priest may order, with authority to inspect their records, by-laws and mode of work, and report thereon to the Grand High Priest.

Companion Henry Chickering reports on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-three Grand Chapters. Companion Richard Briggs, Grand High Priest. Companion Thomas Waterman, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Stated Convocations were held March 10, June 9, December 8; and the Annual Convocation on October 13. At the Convocation held March 10, the following report was accepted:

The Committee appointed to consider the ritual of the Degrees of Past Master and Royal Arch have carefully considered the subject, and respectfully beg leave to report that the ritual of the Degree of Past Master shall be confined to the ceremonies of introduction, election, obligation, installation, and lecture, to be conferred without any intermission or interruption in the order of progression; and in the Royal Arch degree, the living arch shall not be less than three and one-half feet in height, and remain stationary while being used; and in the remaining ceremonies, the candidates for exaltation shall be under the exclusive control of the proper officers, and without interference by any other person.

The Committee further recommend that the High Priest of each Chapter shall be held responsible for the enforcement of the above regulations.

Three copies of the printed proceedings were ordered to be sent to each Grand Chapter in the United States.

At the Convocation on June 9, it was unanimously voted—

That the delegates from this Grand Chapter to the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the United States be requested to use their most earnest efforts to obtain a dissolution of said General Grand Chapter; and, failing to obtain such dissolution, to seek a peaceable withdrawal therefrom, agreeably to the obligations of Royal Arch Masons.

At the Annual Convocation held October 13, a report was received from the delegates to the General Grand Chapter, from which we quote the following, which will explain the reason the wishes of the Grand Chapter were not carried out:

Previously to our leaving Massachusetts, our attention was directed to the vote passed by this Grand Chapter, instructing its representatives at this meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the United States to use their

most earnest efforts to obtain a dissolution of the General Grand Chapter ; and, failing to obtain such a dissolution, to seek a peaceable withdrawal therefrom agreeably to the obligations of Royal Arch Masons. In obedience to this vote, we had a full and free conversation with the other members of the General Grand Chapter upon the question of its dissolution, and were soon satisfied that such a proposition would meet with no support whatever in the Convocation. Under these circumstances, and after much consideration, we were unanimously of opinion that it would be indiscreet to take any further and more public steps in this direction. The other alternative presented by your vote, that we seek a peaceable withdrawal from the Convocation, could not, in our judgment, have been attempted at that time, and before an opportunity had been offered of once more presenting the subject for your consideration, without lessening to a very great degree the influence of Massachusetts in other Masonic bodies then meeting in St. Louis, and producing a very disagreeable feeling in the hearts of all the Masons then so happily assembled in Missouri. The production of such a result did not seem to us consistent with our obligations as Royal Arch Masons, which, in this same vote, you had so particularly and so properly directed us not to violate.

Two hundred and twenty-five dollars were granted as charity.

Companion Henry Chickering again furnishes an able report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of nineteen Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included.

Companion HENRY CHICKERING, of Pittsfield, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion THOMAS WATERMAN, of Boston, *Grand Secretary*

MICHIGAN.

1869.

The Twentieth Grand Convocation was held in Detroit, January 11, Most Excellent Companion George C. Munro, Grand High Priest, presiding. Fifty-eight subordinate Chapters represented. The Grand High Priest presented his annual address, from which we learn that he has been an active worker in the Masonic vineyard, doing a large amount of work. He had found everywhere peace, harmony and unity, and the most remarkable uniformity in all the subordinate Chapters. Seven dispensations for new Chapters had been granted.

Companion J. Eastman Johnson, Grand Secretary, presents the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the transactions of

thirty Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included. Companion Johnson still merits the praise bestowed upon him by our Companion Allen, for preparing one of the best reports it has been our privilege to read. He says of Pennsylvania:

This Grand Jurisdiction has ever stood firmly on her dignity. This has appeared from her immovable adherence to ancient forms, and to her peculiar system of work; from her long retention of the dependence of Royal Arch Chapters on the Grand Lodge, (as yet remains the system in England;) from her standing somewhat aloof from other Masonic Grand Bodies; and from her reticence touching the things done within her precincts.

She yields gracefully, however, to the force of events, and has sent us an "Abstract."

He quotes at length from Companion Past Grand High Priest George Griscom's address of 1867; and leaves us with the following:

We take respectful leave of the Most Excellent Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, until she shall again have accomplished her grand cycle among the constellations, and again shall have become visible to mortal eyes.

Resolutions were adopted to aid and sustain the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia in her trouble with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. Several amendments to the Constitution were proposed. Resolutions were also adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That the subordinate Chapters report to the Grand Secretary all rejections, suspensions and expulsions.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary notify all subordinate Chapters once in every three months of all such rejections, suspensions and expulsions.

Resolved, That the Secretaries of the subordinate Chapters shall enter the same in a black book, to be kept as a record of the same.

The greatest care should be exercised in the admission of candidates: nothing should be left undone that can in any way keep out the unworthy.

Past Grand High Priests' jewels were presented to several of the Past Grand High Priests.

Companion WILLIAM L. WEBBER, of East Saginaw, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion J. EASTMAN JOHNSON, of Centreville, *Grand Secretary*.

MINNESOTA.

1867.

Seventh Annual Convocation held in St. Paul, October 21, Most Excellent Companion B. F. Smith, Grand High Priest, presiding. Ten subordinate Chapters represented. The address of the Grand High Priest refers principally to affairs of local interest. Of the use of SUBSTITUTES in the Royal Arch degree, he says:

A Chapter under dispensation asks for information as to the "authority of substituting one or more in conferring the seventh degree." My answer was, "I know of no decisions in this State on the question involved; but the practice, as I am advised, is in favor of substitution; therefore, custom and usage has established that practice as law. I shall therefore authorize the Chapters to continue to do so until the Grand Chapter shall see fit to change the practice."

The Committee on Address of the Grand High Priest reported as follows, which was adopted:

The suggestions of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, on Masonic morals, are timely and worthy of the most grave consideration. Perfection is not attainable in any thing this side of heaven; but no Mason should ever be oblivious to the fact that the reputation of Masonry, and hence its power for good, depends largely on the practical morality of its members. As long as profanity and other grave vices are known to be indulged in the Order, the moral sense of Christendom will be against it. There can be no question that in some Lodges and Chapters many vigorous applications of the well-recognized moral laws of Masonry would lead to good results.

A resolution was received, but not adopted, declaring members of subordinate Chapters, but who were not members of the Grand Chapter, eligible to the offices of Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, or Grand Captain of the Host.

Most Excellent Companion Luther Dearborn, Grand High Priest, and Right Excellent William S. Combs, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Eighth Annual Convocation held in St. Paul, October 26, Most Excellent Luther Dearborn, Grand High Priest, presiding.

We notice a peculiarity in the opening of this Chapter: we read that "a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was opened in due form. The roll of Chapters being called, the Grand Secretary announced

that there was a quorum of Chapters present. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then opened the Most Excellent Grand Chapter in ample form."

Ten subordinate Chapters represented.

In the annual address, the Grand High Priest refers at length to the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, at St. Louis, 1868. Two dispensations were issued for new Chapters. The destruction by fire of the Masonic records, and almost the entire property of the Grand Chapter, was announced. We grieve with our sister in this great loss. Some years ago the Masonic temple in Philadelphia was destroyed by fire, and many of the Lodges and Chapters lost their jewels, and records which could not be replaced—records linking the past with the present.

Speaking of a higher standard of qualification for admission to Royal Arch Masonry, he very eloquently says :

We have too long known, from sad experience, that it is not the number of stones that makes the beautiful temple ; neither is it the number of Companions that makes the strong Brotherhood. If we would closely join the one, the stones must all be "*hewed, squared and numbered.*" If we would hold the other by an *indissoluble chain*, they must be linked together by *honor, worth and intelligence.*

The breeze of popular applause has brought before the world and swelled the numbers of a thousand *Societies* ; but without the "tenets and cardinal virtues" of a true Fraternity, they have subserved their brief purpose and passed away, and have left this lesson for our instruction : that we, as a Fraternity, are in greater danger from unprincipled members in our Lodges than from all other opposing influences without. Masonry is now fashionable, and countless numbers are now knocking at our doors for admission ; and it would be strange indeed if, among the number admitted, there should not be found many to whom the privilege should have been denied. But this, my Companions, is a question within the control of those who hold the power of admission. If this power is judiciously exercised, the number will be small ; but if we are careless of that moral obligation and fitness which should be the true test for admission, a wound will be inflicted on the institution grievous to be borne, and not easily healed.

Be careful in guarding against intemperance and excess : no wisdom, no reputation, no public honors, can save you from the desolating influence of intemperance. This fearful vice is found in the cottage and in the palace, in the church and in the halls of legislation ; and, I fear, too often in our Lodges. It has robbed age of its support, youth of its protection, and the domestic fireside of its peace and happiness.

There is another vicious habit among us, often referred to as in conflict

with the principles and teachings of Royal Arch Masonry, and against the moral sense of Christendom ; and still these discordant sounds are heard among the workmen. I refer to the practice of profaning the name of Deity.

How is it possible that a Companion who has passed the *veils* of our Tabernacle by the "Signet of Truth," that has engraven upon his heart "Holiness to the Lord," and been invested with the "Ineffable Word," can so far forget these solemn teachings as to profane that Sacred Name !

The correction of these vicious habits is imperatively demanded by the teachings of our Order. We owe it to the institution of which we are members ; we owe it to society ; we owe it to our own characters as just and upright Masons. These, my Companions, are some of the objects, duties and aims of Freemasonry ; and, in order to perpetuate it, each member should feel that there was an individual responsibility resting upon him, not only to preserve unsullied the reputation of the Fraternity, but that he has a share of responsibility in its preservation.

A code of by-laws for the use of subordinate Chapters was adopted.

We notice another peculiarity in the election of officers, which is, that, "On motion, the Grand Chapter was resolved into a Convention for the election of officers. The election was held, and the Chapter resumed labor," when the Grand Secretary reported the result of the elections, which elections were unanimously confirmed by the Grand Chapter.

Companions A. T. C. Pierson and S. B. Foote furnish the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the transactions of twenty-nine Grand Chapters. Of Pennsylvania, they say :

The Grand Bodies in Pennsylvania are very careful to exercise all their rights, and among them that of *reticence* respecting their transactions. No data is furnished as to the number of Chapters represented at their Convocations, number on the roll, or number of members. We notice that Titus Chapter, No. 207, is casually mentioned.

We have no Titus Chapter in Pennsylvania, but Aaron Chapter at Titusville.

Most Excellent Companion MOSES W. GETCHELL, of St. Anthony,
Grand High Priest.

Right Excellent Companion WILLIAM S. COMBS, of St. Paul,
Grand Secretary.

MISSISSIPPI.

We have received from this jurisdiction a copy of the reprint of Proceedings of Formation of Grand Chapter in 1846 to 1855, which we find very interesting indeed.

1868.

Twentieth Annual Convocation held in Natchez, January 23, Most Excellent Companion William D. Ferris, Grand High Priest, presiding. Sixty-seven subordinate Chapters represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest touches upon a subject which we deem of sufficient importance to quote from :

Companion C. S. McCloud, a Christian minister, while visiting Vicksburg Royal Arch Chapter, No. 3, was invited by the Most Excellent High Priest to pray at the close of the Chapter, and prayed "through the merits of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Saviour." Immediately after the Chapter was closed, Companion M. Bodenheim, the Excellent Scribe, with whom he was not personally acquainted, approached him in the Chapter room, in a manner said to be rude and angry, and said, "Jesus Christ don't have any business here;" and, when remonstrated with, said, "By God, Jesus Christ don't have any business here, and I won't stand it." Companion D. S. Snodgrass, the Secretary, charged the Scribe "with grossly unmasonic conduct;" and assigned, as specifications, first, that he unnecessarily and grossly insulted a visiting Companion, and through him insulted the Most Excellent High Priest, who had invited him to pray; secondly, that he used the name of Deity in an "irreverent manner." On the trial, Companion Bodenheim confessed the facts stated in the specifications, waived the examination of witnesses, and declined making any defence. When the ballot was taken, there was a tie on the first specification; and the Excellent King, presiding as the Most Excellent High Priest, decided that the specification was not sustained. The second specification was sustained, and then the charge was sustained. The questions arising on these facts are as follows :

1. Has a Companion the right to use the name of Jesus Christ in Chapter prayer?

2. Has a Chapter the right to try charges preferred against its Most Excellent High Priest, Excellent King, or Excellent Scribe? And are the proceedings on such charges different from the proceedings against any other member of the Chapter?

3. Did not the Chapter, in the ballot on the first specification, virtually decide that it is not unmasonic to grossly insult a visiting Companion, and lay itself liable to censure by such decision?

My opinion on the first question was given substantially as follows :

The Christian cannot approach the Throne of Grace otherwise than

through the merits of Jesus Christ, since it is an article of his faith that it is only through Jesus Christ that we have access, by the Spirit, to the Father. Hence to prohibit him from thus praying in the Chapter would be to preclude him from praying there at all. But every Companion has the right to pray there according to the dictates of his conscience. While deciding thus, I would advise every Companion to "take heed, lest by any means this liberty become a stumbling-block to them that are weak." Jesus can be alluded to in the language of the Jewish Scriptures so that every Christian will understand the allusion, while every Israelite may make a different application of the words. I think it more consistent with Masonic charity to use such modes of expression so that neither the Jewish nor the Christian conscience may be wounded.

Upon the second question my decision was, that a Chapter has the right to try charges preferred against its Excellent King and Excellent Scribe, and the proceedings on such charges do not differ from the proceedings on charges against any other member of the Chapter. But when charges are preferred against the Most Excellent High Priest, they should be sent to the Grand High Priest, who should appoint a Committee of Past High Priests to investigate the case and report to him. If he should deem the case sufficiently important, it is his duty to report it to the Grand Chapter, by whom the accused should be tried. This course is necessary because the Chapter cannot deprive the High Priest of his right to preside over it, and he cannot with propriety preside when his own trial is pending.

Upon the third question, the papers in my hands are not sufficiently explicit to enable me to give a positive opinion. If the confession of the accused was intended as a plea of "guilty," the only question to be considered by the Chapter was, What punishment should be inflicted? If, however, while confessing the facts, he denied their reprehensible character, the question before the Chapter was, Whether it is unmasonic to insult a visiting Companion? and the vote of the Chapter decided this question in the negative, which was certainly a glaring and culpable error.

In Pennsylvania, the Grand Chapter prescribes the form of prayer to be used by her subordinates; these forms, beautiful and appropriate, were prepared so as not to interfere with or offend any Companion in his religious belief.

The death of Companion D. R. Corley, Grand Tyler, was announced.

The Grand Secretary was instructed to publish in the proceedings the names of all Companions suspended for non-payment of dues.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That hereafter the Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall not call off from day to day, but close the meetings each day, and call such meetings as may be necessary for conferring degrees.

Fifty dollars were appropriated for the relief of the widow and children of a Past High Priest.

The use of substitutes was declared a violation of the principles of Royal Arch Masonry; and a resolution was adopted that any Chapter violating the law (by using substitutes) shall forfeit its charter.

Most Excellent Companion James O. Lusher, Grand High Priest, and Right Excellent Companion Oscar T. Keeler, Grand Secretary.

1869.

Twenty-first Grand Convocation held in Jackson, January 14, Most Excellent Companion Joseph O. Lusher, Grand High Priest, presiding. Fifty-three subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest says he has no flattering report of the increased or increasing prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry in his jurisdiction. No dispensations for new Chapters had been granted, nor had the accession of numbers been as great as in years past; and that the Chapters had not recovered from the effects of the late strife in our land. During the late war, nearly all had suspended; but most of them had since reorganized, although suffering heavily from the financial distress and general embarrassment which still prevail. Dispensations had been issued to confer the Royal Arch degree out of the regular order, although the Grand High Priest stated he believed in so doing he was radically wrong, and had done so unwillingly. He expresses the hope that ere long the power of granting dispensations in such cases would be taken from the Grand High Priests by the various Grand Chapters. Attention was also called to the hasty manner in which the degrees were conferred; and the Grand Chapter was asked to legislate so as to prevent it. The Grand High Priest brought the following to the attention of the Grand Chapter:

In October last I received the following telegram, signed by ———, High Priest of Natchez Chapter, No. 1: "Emergency requires me to confer Chapter degrees with substitutes: will explain by letter." Without waiting for promised letter, (which I never received,) I responded: "No emergency can justify the use of substitutes in conferring the Royal Arch degree." Last December I received information that Natchez Chapter, No. 1, had exalted a candidate by using substitutes. As this is a violation of the law, and in direct opposition to an especial edict of the Grand Chapter, passed at its last Annual Communication, I deem it my duty to lay the matter before you for your action.

Since the General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter used the telegraph in the District of Columbia trouble, we are not so much surprised at the action of the High Priest of Natchez Chapter, No. 1. Perhaps in the hasty manner in which the work is done in Mississippi, the telegraphic answer was received from the Grand High Priest too late to stop the work.

The following decision was made, the Grand Chapter, however, refusing to sustain it:

Objections by a member of a Chapter to a candidate after he is accepted, and before any degree is conferred upon him, are equivalent to a rejection, and when the objection is made, he is as fully and completely rejected as if the ballot had not been clear. In such a case the objector need not give his reasons, nor has any one the right to disclose his name.

On the subject of *electioneering* for office, he says:

I exceedingly regret that I feel myself compelled to call the attention of the Grand Chapter to the system of electioneering, wire-working, and log-rolling that has been practised by members of the Grand Chapter to elect their particular friends to office. The principal officers I see no impropriety in changing, as the honors should not be held by one; but the offices of Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer should be changed as seldom as possible, as long as the incumbents faithfully perform their duties. It takes several years for a Companion to become fully conversant with the duties of his office; and I deem it fatal to the interest of the Grand Chapter to make changes except for good and sufficient cause. This has been and is still the practice of all other Grand Chapters, and our own interest demands a similar course of action.

With us in Pennsylvania, we have made but one change in the office of Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter during the past twenty-seven years, and that change was made necessary by the death of Companion William H. Adams. We hope that many years will elapse before we will be required to change again.

A Special Committee on the Natchez Chapter, No. 1, matter before referred to, reported:

Whilst your Committee are aware that it is a palpable violation of the ancient landmarks and the positive rules and regulations of this Grand Chapter, and from the age of said Chapter and the long Masonic experience of many of its worthy members, we believe a severe reprimand should be inflicted. But from the facts before your Committee, we believe that it was an unintentional error of the presiding officer, in direct opposition to the wish of many of the members, a majority disapproving the act. Such being the facts, your Committee would regret to see the inno-

cent members made to suffer for an act they could not avoid. We would therefore respectfully offer the following :

Resolved, That, under all the circumstances, Natchez Chapter, No. 1, be relieved from the penalty.

Which was adopted.

The Committee on Masonic Law, to whom was referred that portion of the Grand High Priest's address of 1868 having reference to the prayer used in Vicksburg Chapter, No. 3, reported as follows :

The Committee on Masonic Law, continued from last Convocation to prepare a report in regard to religious tolerance discussed in the address of Most Excellent Grand High Priest W. D. Ferris, ask leave to submit the following preamble and resolutions :

Whereas, Universal religious tolerance is a fundamental principle of our Order : Therefore,

Resolved, That the right of every Companion to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience must remain unimpaired.

Resolved, That the insult offered to Companion —, a Christian minister, who, at the request of the High Priest of Vicksburg Chapter, No. 3, closed the Chapter with prayer and preferred his requests to the Deity in the name of "Jesus Christ, our Saviour," is deserving of severe censure ; and the Companion offering this indignity should have been suspended from the Chapter on the charge of gross unmasonic conduct, which was preferred against him by its Secretary.

The same Committee also reported :

Upon that portion of the address which treats of conferring degrees out of order, they report that dispensations for this purpose should be granted with extreme caution ; but they deem it inexpedient to recommend to this Grand Body any action looking to the repeal of the power now vested in the Most Excellent Grand High Priest to grant them. Emergencies may arise which render the exercise of this prerogative essentially necessary ; and we repose sufficient confidence in our chief officer to believe that it will not be used except when positively required.

Companion William S. Patton furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-five Grand Chapters.

Companion GEORGE D. FEE, of Oxford, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion OSCAR T. KEELER, of Columbus, *Grand Secretary*.

MISSOURI.

1867.

Nineteenth Annual Convocation held in St. Louis, October 9, Right Excellent Companion Martin Collins, Deputy Grand High Priest, as Grand High Priest. Eighteen subordinate Chapters represented.

Deputy Grand High Priest Collins presented and read his annual address, the Grand High Priest being absent from the jurisdiction during the greater part of the year. Capitular Masonry is reported in a prosperous condition. The death of Right Excellent Companion Anthony O'Sullivan, Grand Lecturer, Grand Secretary, &c., was announced in language fitting and worthy of the deceased Companion. The deaths of Right Excellent Companion Joseph H. Tallmann, Grand Scribe, Past Grand High Priest J. W. Crane, and Companion James McDaniel were also announced. Death has indeed been busy, carrying away many of the shining lights in Royal Arch Masonry in Missouri. Seven dispensations for new Chapters were issued. The Grand Chapter, in conjunction with the Grand Lodge, erected a monument over the remains of the lamented O'Sullivan.

The charter of a subordinate Chapter was directed to be restored when the three principal officers give satisfactory evidence to the Grand High Priest of their ability to confer the Chapter degree.

Companion George Frank Gouley furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-eight Grand Chapters.

Companion Martin Collins, Grand High Priest, and Companion George Frank Gouley, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Twentieth Annual Convocation held at St. Louis, October 7, Companion Martin Collins, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty-six subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered an eloquent address, referring particularly to the meeting of the General Grand Chapter in September. The condition of Capitular Masonry is reported to be highly satisfactory. Nine dispensations for new Chapters had been issued.

Speaking of the *ceremonies* of the *Royal Arch degree*, he says :

The ceremonies of the Royal Arch degree are exceedingly beautiful and impressive when properly conducted ; but they have often been made ridiculous by Companions who seem to imagine that unmeaning frivolity is necessarily a part of the work, and they govern themselves accordingly. Let such never forget that they claim to be sensible, dignified men, engaged in solemn rites, intended to convey the most serious lessons of instruction. There is nothing in the whole range of Masonic degrees to shock the sense of propriety of the most punctilious and sensitive gentleman. If any thing foreign to the grand design of the Order be permitted, the inevitable tendency is to prevent good men from seeking "more light," or, having sought and not found it, they naturally hold themselves aloof from any further participation in our councils.

CASES OF EMERGENCY.

In my official capacity, during the past year, I have received numerous applications for dispensations to confer degrees inside of the prescribed time, and consequently outside of the system established by our laws and regulations. I deemed it best, as a general rule, not to recognize these emergencies, and therefore declined all such applications, as inexpedient, except when a deviation from usage was necessary for the formation of a new Chapter, and these cases were rare. Most men have time enough to become Royal Arch Masons in the regular course of receiving the degrees, and an exigency which demands a more rapid advancement in our mysteries very seldom occurs. The practice of accommodating Masonry to men is subversive of the fundamental principles of the Order, and should be universally discouraged. Where Masonry is to receive a temporary benefit—as, for instance, in the establishment of new bodies—usage may sometimes be waived without injury ; but even then the privilege should be very judiciously exercised.

The Grand Secretary, as Committee, reported on New Jewels without collars, but hung by pin attachments ; which were, on motion, adopted.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported as follows :

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Grand Chapter that the decision of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest that, "before a Chapter could receive and entertain such a petition, the Chapter under whose local jurisdiction the applicant holds his membership in the Lodge should be notified of his intention to take the Chapter degrees, and requested to waive jurisdiction over him," is erroneous ; that Lodge membership has nothing to do with Chapter jurisdiction ; and if an affiliated Master Mason has resided one year within the jurisdiction of any subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction, said Chapter thereby acquires jurisdiction over him, and has the right to entertain his petition, and act upon the same.

Companion George Frank Gouley furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included.

Companion OREN ROOT, Jr., of Columbia, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion GEORGE FRANK GOULEY, Freemasons' Hall, St. Louis, *Grand Secretary*.

NORTH CAROLINA.

1868.

Twentieth Annual Convocation held in Wilmington, June 2, Most Excellent Companion Alfred Martin, Grand High Priest, presiding. Nineteen subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest, in his address, speaks very despondingly of Capitular Masonry in his jurisdiction. But one dispensation had been granted.

The question of removal of the Grand Chapter from Wilmington to Raleigh was decided adversely.

The Grand Secretary reported the Grand Chapter library and the books and papers of his office as having been destroyed by fire.

Companion Thomas B. Carr furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters. Pennsylvania omitted.

A Custodian and Deputy Custodian of the Work was appointed; and any subordinate Chapter refusing to practice the work, as promulgated by the Custodians, or neglecting to do so for twelve months after the offer of any of the Grand Lecturers shall have been made to the High Priest thereof to instruct the officers in the same, shall forfeit her charter, or the Grand High Priest may suspend the same until satisfactory reason is given for the neglect.

The Custodians were authorized to charge for their services in teaching the work of the Grand Chapter such sums as may be agreed upon by the parties.

Companion W. G. HILL, of Raleigh, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion THOMAS B. CARR, of Wilmington, *Grand Secretary*.

NEBRASKA.

1867.

The proceedings before us are those of a Convention held at Plattsmouth, on March 19, for the purpose of organizing this

Grand Chapter, at which three Chapters were represented. Companion H. P. Deuel, of Omaha, was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion E. T. Duke, of Plattsmouth, was elected Grand Secretary.

The First Grand Annual Convocation was held at Omaha, June 17, 1867, Companion H. P. Deuel, Grand High Priest, presiding. Three subordinate Chapters represented.

In the annual address, the Grand High Priest says :

Capitular Masonry in Nebraska is in a most flourishing condition. Although our Chapters are few in number, yet the zeal which is manifested in the good work, and the rapidly increasing number of their members, speaks for itself of its prosperity. But a few years have elapsed since its introduction in Nebraska, some of which are fraught with the saddest recollections to every true Masonic heart ; for war, stern and unrelenting, has desolated a portion of our fair land ; the ties of kindred and brotherhood have been sundered ; and hands which should have been extended to meet the clasp of fraternal love and friendship have been raised against a brother's life. But peace has again returned to us, and the links of fellowship are again becoming united, I trust never again to be severed.

I would earnestly recommend to the Grand Chapter that their deliberations on the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws be attended with the most careful consideration. It is far better that laws should originate rightly, than that they should be subject to the almost endless changes which would necessarily follow if they were adopted without due care. I would also recommend that the Grand Chapter should be cautious in the matter of unnecessary legislation. The custom prevails, and I think it is an evil one, of lumbering up our proceedings and reports with a vast amount of resolutions which I think are unnecessary. A few well-digested laws are much better adapted for the government of subordinate Chapters than the mass of resolutions and amendments with which too many Grand Chapter proceedings are filled. I would also suggest that you require the subordinate Chapters to be very particular in regard to the qualification of candidates seeking admission. When so many are desirous of enlisting under our banners, as is the case at the present time, you should require them to use the utmost circumspection, that the honor and glory of our ancient institution may thereby be sustained.

With sentiments such as these, expressed by the highest presiding officer, and endorsed by the Grand Chapter, there is no reason to doubt that the Grand Chapter of Nebraska will take its position among the Grand Chapters of the United States.

A resolution was adopted declaring those Companions, who assisted at the formation of the Grand Chapter, life-members thereof.

Companion J. W. Moore, Grand High Priest, and Companion J. N. Wise, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Second Annual Convocation held in Bellevue, June 23, Most Excellent Companion Daniel H. Wheeler, Deputy Grand High Priest, as Grand High Priest. Three subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest, being unavoidably detained, submitted his annual address.

It was decided that the suspension of a Companion in a blue Lodge for non-payment of dues suspends him also in the Chapter.

Companion DANIEL H. WHEELER, of Plattsburgh, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion J. N. WISE, of Plattsburgh, *Grand Secretary*.

The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania fraternally greets the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.

NEW JERSEY.

1867.

Eleventh Annual Convocation held in Trenton, September 11, Most Excellent Companion Israel Baldwin, Grand High Priest, presiding. Sixteen subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest reports in his annual address that he had granted three dispensations for new Chapters. He made the following decisions:

In balloting for election of candidates, if a black ball appears, the ballot should be again spread; if it again appears, and there be any reasonable ground for supposing it was thrown by accident or mistake, it may be spread a third time, and so continued, at the discretion of the High Priest, until the Companions are satisfied the black ball was thrown by design.

The Grand Chapter, however, decided that after a second unfavorable ballot the candidate shall be declared rejected.

Also, that—

Every member of a Chapter has a right to vote. It therefore becomes the duty of the High Priest, when the ballot is spread for the election of applicants to membership, to inform members of Committees who may be in adjoining apartments, and the Tyler of the Chapter, and invite them in, to cast his or their vote. In case of the neglect of the High Priest to do

so, the parties thus aggrieved have just cause of complaint; under such complaint the High Priest may declare the election void, and order the ballot to be again spread.

The Grand Chapter decided that the neglect of the High Priest to notify Companions outside of the Chapter would not invalidate such election.

Each applicant should be balloted for separately, and not two or more at the same time.

Which was approved.

Suspension from a blue Lodge suspends from the Chapter, without regard to the cause of suspension.

It was decided that suspension from a blue Lodge, except upon charges preferred and proved, should not suspend a member from his rights and privileges as a member of a Chapter.

When a constitutional number of Companions desire to make application for dispensation to open and hold a new Chapter, it is unnecessary for them to dimit from their Chapter for that purpose.

Which was approved.

That the High Priest of a Chapter may refuse to entertain a motion at his discretion.

Companion Thomas J. Corson furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing in an able manner the proceedings of twenty-nine Grand Chapters.

Companion J. V. Mattison, Grand High Priest, and Most Excellent Companion John Woolverton, M. D., Grand Secretary.

1868.

Twelfth Annual Convocation held in Trenton, September 9, Most Excellent Companion J. V. Mattison, Deputy Grand High Priest. Seventeen subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest made the following decision, which was sustained by the Grand Chapter :

Can the High Priest of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in this jurisdiction admit a Companion from Canada, who can prove himself a Royal Arch Mason, but who has never taken the Mark and Past Master's degrees in a regularly warranted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Canada, to a seat in his Chapter, under this jurisdiction? My answer was, that he could

be admitted as a Royal Arch Mason during the working of that degree, but must be necessarily excluded while working the Mark, Past or Most Excellent Master's degree.

We cannot see how such a person could be admitted. Was he examined? He was surely not in possession of all the preceding degrees?

We notice, also, that dispensations were issued to subordinate Chapters to make, at sight, Royal Arch Masons.

Companion Thomas J. Corson again furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters.

Companion JESSE P. CASE, of Jersey City, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JOHN P. WOOLVERTON, of Trenton, *Grand Secretary*.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

1866.

Annual Convocation held at Concord, June 12. Companion Thomas E. Hatch, Grand High Priest, opened the Grand Chapter in ample form. Ten subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest reports favorably on Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction. He refers to the decease of Companion John H. Steel, High Priest, and Past Grand High Priest Companion Philemon Jolles.

The following resolution was indefinitely postponed:

Resolved, That the granting of dispensations to confer the several Chapter degrees is not in accordance with Article XVII, of the Grand Regulations, and should not be countenanced or allowed by this Grand Chapter.

Companion Horace Chase, Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, reviews the proceedings of several Grand Chapters.

Companion Thomas E. Hatch, Grand High Priest, and Companion Horace Chase, Grand Secretary.

1867.

Annual Convocation held in Concord, June 11, Companion Thomas E. Hatch, Grand High Priest, presiding. Ten subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest reports that the work has been done in conformity with that adopted by the Grand Chapter; that there have been *slight* variations in some phrases, but so slight that it needed a critic's ear to recognize them.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That in all cases of dispensation granted by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest or Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest for conferring the Chapter degrees out of the ordinary constitutional time, the candidates for whose benefit said dispensations are granted shall pay each the sum of five dollars for the benefit of the Chapter conferring said degrees; and that no Chapter under this jurisdiction shall confer any degrees by virtue of any dispensation without exacting of the candidate the sum of five dollars in addition to the ordinary and usual fees.

A good movement.

Companion Horace Chase furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence.

Companion NATHANIEL W. CUMNER, of Manchester, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion HORACE CHASE, of Hopkinton, *Grand Secretary*.

NEW YORK.

1868.

Seventy-first Annual Convocation held in Albany, February 4. Most Excellent Companion Seymour H. Stone, Grand High Priest, presiding. One hundred and twenty-four subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest announced the decease of Companion William Seymour, Grand Treasurer. Dispensations had been issued for five new Chapters.

A Past Grand High Priest's jewel was presented to one of the Past Grand High Priests; and, as it is totally different from the form adopted in Pennsylvania, we give the description from the report of the Committee:

It is of fine gold, and weighs sixty-seven pennyweights. It consists of a High Priest's mitre suspended within an equilateral triangle—the triangle being surrounded by a broad circle of gold—the whole of which is enclosed by a wreath of oak leaves, with acorns interspersed among the foliage. The jewel is suspended by a scarlet ribbon two inches long, and one and a half inches wide, with heavy gold clasps across the centre and each end

thereof, with a pin attached to the upper clasp for the purpose of fixing the jewel to the lapel of the coat.

It may not be out of place to call attention to the symbolism of the different parts of this jewel. The mitre represents the priesthood; the equilateral triangle, within which the mitre is suspended, is considered as symbolical of the principal attributes of DEITY—the three equal sides of which represent His Omnipotence, Omniscience and Omnipresence; the circle surrounding the triangle is symbolical of Eternity—time without beginning or end. The oak wreath or garland surrounding the whole has also its significance; the oak was held in peculiar veneration by the ancient Gauls and Britons. The Druids worshipped the Supreme Being under the name of “Esus” or “Hesus,” and the symbol of the oak; and had no other temple than a wood or grove, where all their religious rites were performed. Nor was any person permitted to enter that sacred recess, unless he carried with him a chain, in token of his absolute dependence on the Deity. Indeed, their whole religion originally consisted in acknowledging that the Supreme Being, who made his abode in these sacred groves, governed the universe; and that every creature ought to obey his laws and pay him divine homage. They considered the oak as the emblem, or rather the peculiar residence of the Almighty, and chaplets of it were worn by their priests and the people in their religious ceremonies; the altars were strêwed with its leaves and encircled with its branches; the fruit of it was thought to contain a divine virtue, and to be the peculiar gift of heaven.

It will thus be observed that there is a peculiar fitness in selecting the oak with which to form a chaplet or wreath to surround this emblem of the Priesthood, and thereby designate the honor and dignity to be conferred upon that Companion who has worthily filled the position of Grand High Priest.

A resolution was adopted:

That hereafter no warrant shall be granted to any Chapter under a name already borne by one of the warranted Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

A very proper resolution.

Another resolution was adopted that, in future, Chapters under dispensation be allowed to affiliate regular Royal Arch Masons under the same restrictions as warranted Chapters.

Chapter No. 174 was required to pay the degree fees received from four persons, upon whom the Chapter degrees were conferred, to a Chapter under dispensation, the candidates' residence being within the jurisdiction of the Chapter under dispensation. A few more such examples as this and we will not hear so much of the invasion of jurisdiction.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported on the following questions :

Had a Companion a right to protest to the High Priest against the conferring the Chapter degrees upon a brother, and was such protest of any force ?

Is it Masonic for such presiding officer to accept a petition after such protest ?

After a High Priest has given assurances that action would not be had upon such petition, without notice to the objecting Companion, and that the protest and objections should be confidential, is he censurable for violating both ?

We do not believe that a High Priest, or any other Companion, is bound to be the passive instrument of a rejection, without cause assigned, in a Chapter ; he holds the same Masonic relation to both, differing only in degree. If a Companion desires to make his objections available, it is his duty to state the reasons, and then his Companions, if such objections are well founded, would be as prompt in excluding an unworthy candidate as the objector ; he cannot ask them to be his aiders and abettors in an act of malice or caprice. If he wishes to exercise his rights without disclosing any reasons, he must give his personal attendance.

We learn that the High Priest sought in good faith to give the notice desired to the objecting Companion, but was unable to do so. He did not conceive that his obligations extended further, and in this respect we agree with him. He is thus entirely relieved from the imputation of bad faith or improper conduct in the matter, and, aside from this, we can see no error or irregularity in the matter. If the candidate was an improper one to receive the degrees from any cause, there are still the subject of charges and trial, and the diseased member may be lopped off.

After a brother has taken the Mark and Past Master's degrees in a Chapter, a member of the Chapter, residing at considerable distance from the place of meeting, states to another member of the Chapter that he objects to the brother's receiving any further degrees, and requests that his objection be brought before the Chapter in case the brother presents himself to receive any further degrees. The Companion to whom the objection was made communicates it to the High Priest of the Chapter.

Question.—Is the objection thus made sufficient to preclude the brother from receiving further degrees ; or is it necessary for the objecting Companion to appear at the time the candidate presents himself, and to demand a ballot for the Most Excellent Master's degree ?

The rule on this subject has been settled by the previous action of this Grand Chapter. A Companion has a right to demand a ballot upon the advancement of a candidate in any of the degrees. We repeat, what we have stated above, that to render it certain and effectual he should attend in person ; if he does not thus attend, he should be assured that the High Priest, or some other companion, will execute his wishes. We hold that

such High Priest or Companion is not bound to do so; but, if either undertakes that he will, he is censurable for a violation of good faith.

“A Chapter receives the report of Committee on several petitions for advancement; the presiding officer states that the ballot on these petitions will be taken collectively, but if a black ballot appears, a ballot will be taken severally. Upon the ballot being taken, no black ballot appears, and the petitions are declared accepted.

“Is such acceptance of petitions regular? or would an objection to the advancement of candidates so accepted, made after the ballot, be a bar to such advancement, if it was stated that the objection was founded solely upon exception taken to the manner of balloting?”

Respectfully report: That no right is more securely and sacredly guarded than that of the negative ballot. Our laws throw around it all necessary shields and safeguards. But it is, nevertheless, an *arbitrary* right, and no law or rule of construction can be found to extend it beyond its legitimate bounds. Its object is to guard the craft against the introduction of the unworthy, and to preserve unity and harmony.

We cannot conceive that these principles have been invaded in the case before us. The Companion gave his consent as fully and emphatically as if it had been a single ballot, and he had either voted favorably or refrained from voting negatively. His objection, *upon the grounds upon which it is placed*, comes too late. We think the High Priest may properly disregard it, and proceed with his work.

Two hundred and fifty dollars were donated to the widow of a Companion.

The order of High Priesthood seems to be one of the new troubles agitating some of our sister Grand Chapters; and, as the Grand Chapter of New York has taken a decided stand on that question, other Grand Chapters will no doubt follow her example. We do not see how Grand Chapters can legislate on this subject, as two-thirds of their membership comprise those who have never taken the order of High Priesthood.

In Pennsylvania, it is one of the necessary qualifications for the High Priest, and when he is installed he receives the order of High Priesthood.

We quote the resolutions which were adopted:

Whereas, So far as we can learn, there is no record on the books of this Grand Chapter of the degree of High Priesthood ever having been recognized as a part or parcel of the degrees conferred under the authority of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York; and

Whereas, The degree has been conferred as far back as the memory of the oldest member of the Grand Chapter extends, by the Grand Lecturers, under the direction of the Grand Council, and for which they have made a

trifling charge, sufficient to cover the expense attending the same, they being permitted to retain the surplus, if any ; and

Whereas, There appears to be a manifest propriety in the Grand Chapter assuming a positive jurisdiction over the same ; therefore,

Resolved, That from and after this date the Grand Chapter shall assume entire control over the degree of High Priesthood within its jurisdiction, and confer the same on all High Priests elected or appointed, and on those who have not already received the same.

Resolved, That it is the imperative duty of a High Priest elect to receive the order of High Priesthood ; and no High Priest shall be permitted to preside over his Chapter after the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter next succeeding his election, until he shall have received the order—which shall be conferred under the direction of this Grand Chapter immediately after the opening, and without fee ; none being present but regularly anointed High Priests. And, in the event of a Companion entitled to the degree being unavoidably absent, the Grand High Priest shall issue his dispensation to have the degree conferred in such manner as his judgment shall dictate.

Resolved, That the duty above enjoined shall not be enforced by any act of discipline, until after the next Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter.

We notice that the Grand Treasurer offered a bond for \$25,000, given by two Companions, as a surety for the faithful performance of his duties.

Companion White furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-four Grand Chapters.

The proceedings of the Grand Council of High Priests are also published, at which the following preamble and resolution were adopted :

Whereas, The Grand Chapter of the State of New York has assumed the control and government of the degree or order of High Priesthood within its jurisdiction ; and

Whereas, We fully concur in the eminent propriety of that body becoming its custodian ; therefore,

Resolved, That this Grand Council do hereby forever cede and surrender to the Grand Council of said Grand Chapter all and any rights which we have or may have had over said degree or order, or of conferring the same ; and as the necessity of our organization as a Council has ceased to exist, we do hereby declare that when said Council shall have ceased its labors at this session this evening, it be forever dissolved and its existence terminated, and that its records and papers be delivered to the custody of the Grand Council of the Grand Chapter.

After the adoption of the above, and the Treasurer's final report,

we find these significant words: “And the *Grand Council of High Priests of the State of New York* was closed forever.”

Thus ended, as far as New York is concerned, an organization which should never have been instituted.

By regulation, a petitioner for the Chapter degrees is required to answer the following questions in writing, and sign his name thereto:

What is your age, (years,) and occupation? Where were you born? (town, State.) Where do you reside? Have you ever, to your knowledge, been proposed and rejected as a candidate for the degrees conferred in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons? If so, when, and in what Chapter?

Companion Seymour H. Stone, Grand High Priest, and Companion Christopher G. Fox, Grand Secretary.

1869.

Seventy-second Annual Convocation held in Albany, February 2, Most Excellent Companion Seymour H. Stone, Grand High Priest, presiding. One hundred and thirty-five subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest, in his annual address, states that sixteen new Chapters had been organized by dispensation during the past year. He submits the following decisions for the approval of the Grand Chapter:

Honorary membership can only be provided for by the By-Laws of a Chapter; but the right to vote or hold office cannot be conferred by virtue of honorary membership alone.

A High Priest may remove from office his own appointees, therefore the obligation laid down in the installation service for elective officers should not be required for appointed officers.

A dimit can only be properly granted upon the written application of the Companion desiring to withdraw, or upon his personal application in open Chapter.

Applications for restoration to the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry must be accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the applicant is in good standing as a Master Mason.

Question.—Can the Lodges of Mark, Past and Most Excellent Masters be opened for the purpose of conferring those degrees on candidates previously elected, without first opening the Chapter on the Royal Arch degree?

Answer.—The Grand Council answer, that the Lodges mentioned can only be opened and held under the sanction and by authority of the Chapter, and hence, that, if opened without sanction, they would be illegal. It

is therefore decided, that Lodges of Mark, Past and Most Excellent Masters must be opened as a sequence to the Royal Arch Chapter, and not directly of themselves.

BY THE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.

Question.—A brother is expelled by the Lodge, and afterwards restored to the rights and benefits of Masonry ; how does this affect his standing as a Royal Arch Mason and membership in his subordinate Chapter ?

Answer.—That the position of the Companion is that of an unaffiliated Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason. His restoration does not restore his membership in the Lodge which expelled him, and as its effect was also to expel him from the Chapter, the restoration has precisely the same effect there ; it does not restore him to membership. To either he can only be restored to membership by petition and unanimous ballot.

The following were adopted :

Resolved, That no Chapter in this jurisdiction shall be permitted to restore to the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry an expelled Royal Arch Mason, until a written application for such restoration shall have been before the Chapter for one month.

Resolved, That when objections have been made to the advancement of a candidate to any of the degrees of the Chapter, after the first degree, no ballot shall be had on such advancement until after at least two weeks previous notice thereof shall have been given.

Resolved, That the order of High Priesthood shall only be conferred in Grand Chapter, except in extraordinary cases, of which the Grand High Priest or Deputy Grand High Priest shall be the judge ; and who, in such case, may and are hereby empowered to grant a dispensation for the assembling of a convention of not less than three duly anointed High Priests, to confer said order on the newly elected High Priest of a Chapter, under such restrictions and upon such conditions as said officer shall think proper to impose ; but in all cases without fee or reward to any Companion or officer.

Resolved, That a Companion refusing to pay dues to any Chapter of which he may formerly have been a member shall be subject to trial for moral delinquency and unmasonic conduct, on complaint and charges of such Chapter—to be tried by a commission from the Chapter of which he is then a member ; and it shall be the duty of said last-mentioned Chapter to entertain such charges and have said commission duly appointed, and to hear and determine the same.

Suitable resolutions were adopted expressing the feeling of the Grand Chapter on the decease of Past Grand High Priest Companion Benjamin Enos, and Past Grand King Companion Augustus Willard.

The Committee on Jurisprudence also submitted a further report of decisions and resolutions, all of which were adopted :

Whether a High Priest who fails to be anointed, as prescribed in the resolution, thereby vacates his office ? We do not think that he does. By virtue of his election and precedent installation he is High Priest ; but the resolution prescribes an additional qualification for the discharge of his official duties, with which, if he fails to comply, he cannot act. By subsequent legislation the contingency of failure is prudently guarded, and with as much certainty as is possible in human legislation ; yet, if he does fail, he cannot discharge the functions of his office for the time being—being suspended from such discharge by the act of the sovereign authority in Capitular Masonry.

Resolved, That a Companion who has been anointed High Priest in any other State has a legal right to preside over a Chapter in this jurisdiction, if duly anointed in the jurisdiction under which he hailed at the time of his election, and in the mode prescribed in such jurisdiction.

Resolved, That a Chapter has not the right to make a by-law restricting a member from voting at an annual election of officers for the non-payment of dues, without suspending the Companion from the rights and privileges of membership.

The following was recommitted to the Committee, with instructions to report an amendment to the Constitution to cover the case :

Resolved, That hereafter this Grand Chapter will not exact annual dues of any Companion Royal Arch Mason who has been in good standing in Royal Arch Masonry for the space of twenty-five years ; and the Chapters in this jurisdiction are hereby forbidden to exact annual dues from any such Royal Arch Mason.

Two hundred and fifty dollars were granted for the relief of the widow of a Companion.

The report on Foreign Correspondence reviews the proceedings of thirty-two sister Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included.

Companion JOHN W. SIMONS, of New York, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion CHRISTOPHER G. FOX, of Buffalo, *Grand Secretary*.

OHIO.

1868.

Fifty-second Annual Communication held at Dayton, October 16. Companion George Rex, Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

delivered his annual address. Dispensations had been issued to seven subordinate Chapters. The General Grand Chapter comes in for a large portion of the address. The decease of Most Excellent Companion Chester Griswold was announced. Companion Griswold was one of those who had participated in the organization of the Grand Chapter of Ohio.

Companion Howard Matthews furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty sister Grand Chapters.

Most Excellent Companion Charles C. Keefer, Grand High Priest, and Companion John D. Caldwell, Grand Secretary.

1867.

Fifty-first Annual Communication held in Cincinnati, October 11, 1867, Companion George Rex, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, presiding. He read his official communication, notifying the Grand Chapter that he had issued six dispensations for new Chapters. Companion Howard Matthews furnished the report of Committee of Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Chapters.

The following decisions on Masonic Law were approved:

Any Royal Arch Mason is eligible to the office of High Priest in the Chapter of which he is a member. It is not necessary that he should have served in any other office in the Chapter before his election to the office of High Priest.

An applicant for membership in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons must be a Master Mason in good standing; but it is not necessary that such applicant should, at the time he makes the application, be a member of a Lodge of Master Masons.

Petitions for the degrees or membership must be presented and acted upon in open Chapter, at stated meetings. If the action of a Chapter at such stated meeting, on an application for the degrees, results in a clear ballot, such ballot entitles the applicant to the degree of Mark Master, which may be conferred at that time, or at any subsequent stated or special meeting. After an applicant has received the degree of Mark Master, the ballot for the remaining degrees may be taken either at a special or stated meeting, in open Lodge or Chapter, of the degree to be conferred, and all the degrees may be conferred on the applicant on the same day. The mode of proceeding is as follows: The applicant having received the degree of Mark Master, a Lodge of Past Masters is opened, the ballot passed; if clear, the degree conferred, and the Lodge closed; and the same proceeding is had in the remaining degrees. A separate ballot is required for each degree.

After a clear ballot, the fee deposited belongs to the Chapter, and should not be given up unless objection is made by a member to conferring the degrees on the applicant, in which case that fact and the name of the objector should be noted on the journal, and the fee returned to the applicant. If the objection is withdrawn, the applicant is entitled to the degree, upon again depositing the fee. The objection does not reconsider the ballot: it simply prevents it from operating.

An applicant who, after a clear ballot in his favor, declines to receive the degrees, should not afterwards be permitted to receive them, unless his former action was based upon good and valid reasons.

A Chapter has the right to entertain and act upon charges preferred against a Royal Arch Mason residing within its jurisdiction, who is not a member of such Chapter.

Companion GEORGE REX, of Wooster, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JOHN D. CALDWELL, of Cincinnati, *Grand Secretary*.

RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATION.

1866.

Annual Convocation held in Providence, March 13, Most Excellent Companion Thomas A. Doyle, Grand High Priest, presiding. Six subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest reports the following among his official actions:

Having learned from the Worshipful Charles D. Greene, Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, now in his fortieth year of Masonic life, that it was his intention to apply to Providence Royal Arch Chapter for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, I deemed it a fitting opportunity for the exercise of the high power, vested in the Grand High Priest by the Constitution of this Grand Chapter, of making a Royal Arch Mason at sight. Having laid the matter before my associates in the Grand Council, it met their hearty approval, as also that of many Companions in this city whom I consulted in regard to it; and on the first day of the present month, at a Convocation of Providence Chapter, in the presence of upwards of fifty Companions, I conferred the four degrees of Royal Arch Masonry upon the Worshipful brother.

The Constitution was amended by striking out the word "holy" from the title thereof.

Companion Thomas A. Doyle, Grand High Priest, and Companion Samuel B. Swan, Grand Secretary.

1867.

Annual Convocation held in Providence, March 12, Most Excellent Thomas A. Doyle, Grand High Priest, presiding. Six subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest, in his address, expressed the hope that, before the next Annual Convocation, a set of jewels would be procured for the Grand Officers, so that in public processions and installations, if at no other time, they may be distinguished by the badge of their office, and not be compelled as at present to appear without any mark of their rank.

Companion Thomas A. Doyle, Grand High Priest, and Companion Samuel B. Swan, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Annual Convocation held in Providence, March 10, Most Excellent Thomas A. Doyle, Grand High Priest, presiding. Nine subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest reports more than usual prosperity during the past year.

The work of a subordinate Chapter having been stopped for a long time, by the malicious use of the black ball whenever a petition was presented, the Grand High Priest decided that the best method of remedying the trouble was the organization of a new Chapter in the same city. He expected that, before the next Annual Convocation, harmony would be restored, and the two Chapters unite.

He reports that a Chapter working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Connecticut having been burnt out, and "as the only suitable place for the Chapter to assemble in was situated within the jurisdiction of Rhode Island, in Westerly, it afforded him much pleasure to assist the Companions in their trouble, by issuing his dispensation, authorizing them to meet in the place referred to, for the transaction of business or for work, and conferring upon the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and the officers of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Connecticut full authority over the body and its members while assembled as a Chapter within his jurisdiction."

He hoped if charters were granted for new Chapters that jewels for the Grand Officers would be furnished, in order that they may appear properly clothed on such important occasions. Subse-

quently the Grand Chapter ordered the purchase of a set of jewels, collars, sashes, and aprons, the cost not to exceed eight hundred dollars.

An amendment to the Constitution was offered, in effect prohibiting the Grand High Priest from making Royal Arch Masons at sight.

Companion THOMAS A. DOYLE, of Providence, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion GEORGE H. BURNHAM, of Providence, *Grand Secretary*.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

1862.

Annual Convocation held in Charleston, February 11, Most Excellent Companion A. G. Mackey, M. D., Grand High Priest, presiding. Ten subordinate Chapters represented.

Very little business of interest was transacted. In 1863, the Annual Convocation was postponed by the Grand High Priest on account of the "unsettled state of the country."

1866.

The Annual Convocation was held in Charleston, February 13, Most Excellent Companion A. G. Mackey, M. D., Grand High Priest, presiding. Ten subordinate Chapters represented.

Four charters were granted to new Chapters, and duplicate charters were directed to be issued for those destroyed during the war.

An assessment was made on the subordinate Chapters to meet the liabilities of the Grand Chapter.

The Grand High Priest was by resolution requested to appoint a representative of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina to the several Grand Chapters in Europe and America.

Companion A. G. Mackey, M. D., Grand High Priest, and Companion Ebenezer Thayer, Grand Secretary.

1867.

Annual Convocation held in Charleston, February 12, Most Excellent Companion A. G. Mackey, M. D., Grand High Priest. Fourteen Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest in his address says he has no flattering report to make of Royal Arch Masonry in his jurisdiction, as, owing to the long-continued strife in the land, almost all the Chapters had suspended work. But a few only had been resuscitated. A dispensation had been issued for a new Chapter. Owing to troubles in one of the subordinate Chapters, the Grand High Priest having been unable to restore harmony therein, the labors of the Chapter were suspended until the night of the annual election of officers, when they were permitted to resume work.

A beautiful memorial to Companion David Ramsey, Past Grand Scribe, was presented. He was very highly spoken of as a man, and a Mason, and at the time of his death was Grand Master Mason of South Carolina.

Companion R. S. Bruns furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of fourteen Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania not included.

A resolution was adopted requiring every Mark Master Mason, within three months after his admission, to select and record his mark, and making it the special duty of the Secretary of every Chapter to see the regulation complied with.

Companion R. S. Bruns, Grand High Priest, and Companion Ebenezer Thayer, Grand Secretary.

1869.

Annual Convocation held in Charleston, February 9, Most Excellent Companion Robert Stewart Bruns, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty-three subordinate Chapters represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest breathes the pure Masonic spirit. The proceedings of the past year are reviewed. The issuing of two dispensations for new Chapters was reported.

On Masonic Education in the Ritual, he says:

We are to make ourselves as perfect in the knowledge of our rites, symbols and duties, as it is possible for mere mortals to become; we are to remember that our Order contemplates the highest civilization—an idea which involves in it a full sense of religion as the profoundest wisdom. We are not to be like impatient school-boys, unappreciative of the object of education, hurrying through a task without study, making a mere show of the performance of duties, the meaning, motives and laws of which we have not been at the pains to acquire. Having once conceived Capitular Masonry as an object of veneration, as desirable of acquisition, as an agent of society, civilization, and the crowning virtue, Religion, we are to pursue

its study with heart, mind and soul; and having put our hands to the plough, we are not to turn away our heads in disgust or indifference. Nothing is ever made perfect without toil. Nothing is ever permanently desirable, or useful, which does not involve the necessity of study and labor. To observe well and closely; study the laws earnestly; and think honestly upon what we observe and study; then energetically *work* out our thinking—these are the simple and the whole secrets of success in any study, any pursuit, occupation or profession. Spiritual Masonry, or, as we call it, Speculative Masonry, must evermore shadow forth its humble original in operative Masonry, which, pursued through its several degrees, branches and orders, gradually develops, from the mud hovel, or the pole habitation of the Nomad, into the Egyptian pyramid and tower; temples such as made Babylon, Baalbec and Perseopolis, so famous; such as crowned the temple of Solomon with its oriental glory; and such as grew to its highest perfection in the Cathedral Towers of the Norman; their grand heights, their exquisite proportions, their delicate traceries, their belfries, domes and spires, that hang, as it were, in air; their mighty buttresses, and the perfect wholeness of all in the blending over the pillars of strength and beauty of the Royal Arch of the Temple.

In an eloquent appeal for mercy to a suspended Companion, (whom many of the past and present officers of his Chapter asked to have restored to good Masonic standing,) the Grand High Priest uses the following words:

It is not, Companions, the policy or principle of Masonry to *destroy*, but to *save*; not to *hurt*, but to *heal*; not to *cast out* the prodigal, but to *recover* him; and this policy is the sublime of Charity—our paramount law—and implies the most beautiful attribute of Deity; that mercy by which HE tempers Justice for the easier endurance of humanity.

To win this mercy of heaven, we are required to bestow it upon the creatures of earth. We all have need of it. Justice may be the *Monarch*, but *Mercy* is his *Queen*, sitting beside him, like Esther beside Ahasuerus, and pleading for the Jew Mordecai sitting in the king's gate. Were we simply to insist upon *mere* justice for all men, who would escape punishment under the law, as the Great Poet teaches: "Consider this, that, in the course of *justice*, none of us should see salvation: we do pray for mercy; and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy."

Mercy is the *heart* of conscience, where *Justice* is the *Head*! Of its loveliness, of its benefits, to those even who bestow it, it is among the inestimable virtues.

We notice a peculiarity in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina: at the end of nearly every report we find the motion made, "*Resolved*, That it be received as information."

The Grand Secretary, in his report, writes as follows :

Brothers of the Mystic Tie, Companions of the Holy Royal Arch, awake, arouse yourselves, and exert the mighty energies of your noble Order for the recuperation of our dearly beloved country, and its restoration to prosperity throughout its length and breadth !

He draws the following picture of the distress and desolation prevailing the South :

Behold the desolate fields and deserted homesteads, the weeping widows and mourning orphans ! Where plenty and happiness once reigned, now poverty and misery hold sway. The halls in which the young and vivacious formerly assembled and enjoyed innocent hilarity are now occupied by the hooting owl and the disgusting bat ; fields once waving with the affluence of useful textiles and magnificent cereals, beautiful to the eye and valuable to the owner, now present to the beholder the briar, the thorn, and the thistle. Residences formerly lighted up to welcome the weary traveller, or to entertain the happy visitor, are now shrouded in darkness. In rooms, that once resounded with the innocent laugh of merry childhood, and the silvery voice of the beautiful maiden, are now only to be heard the croaking of the raven.

Companion James Birnie furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of eighteen sister Grand Chapters. Three pages are devoted to Pennsylvania.

Companion R. S. BRUNS, of Charleston, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion EBENEZER THAYER, of Charleston, *Grand Secretary*.

TENNESSEE.

1867.

A Stated Annual Meeting was held in Nashville, October 11, Most Excellent Companion Jonathan L. Dawson, Grand High Priest, presiding. Fifty-three subordinate Chapters represented.

From the address of the Grand High Priest we learn that he had issued a dispensation to confer the degrees without the usual time of one month intervening between filing the petition and conferring the degrees. He states that "questionable as may be the authority, and dangerous the precedent," the dispensation was "granted with reluctance." No Chapters had been visited, because of a want of some uniform system of lectures and work.

A resolution was adopted, requiring candidates to be thoroughly conversant with the preceding degree and the first three degrees before advancement.

Also, that there be added to the officers of the Grand Chapter a Grand Principal Sojourner and three Grand Masters of the Vails. We thought the officers of Grand and subordinate Chapters were the same throughout the United States.

Companion Charles A. Fuller furnishes the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-four Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania not included.

Companion Townsend A. Thomas, Grand High Priest, and Companion Charles A. Fuller, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Stated Annual Meeting was held in Nashville, September 30, Most Excellent Companion Townsend A. Thomas, Grand High Priest, presiding. Fifty-one subordinate Chapters represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest calls attention to uniformity of work; the meeting of the General Grand Chapter; the granting of dispensations for eight new Chapters; and the death of Companion Charles A. Fuller, Grand Secretary, who, as a Mason, deserves all the beautiful tributes of respect that were paid to his memory.

The Grand Chapter in a body visited and paid their respects to Mrs. Sarah Polk, widow of Companion Ex-President James K. Polk.

The Grand High Priest was respectfully requested *not* to exercise his power in future in granting dispensations to new Chapters during the interval between the meetings of the Grand Chapter.

Companion George S. Blackie furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-six Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included. As we desire to have our Companions know what we are thought of outside of our own jurisdiction, we append Companion Blackie's remarks:

There are no statistics at all in the document. Indeed, the report, though a most exquisite specimen of typography, is the most unsatisfactory one we have examined. As a conservatory of elegant remarks and polished rhetoric, it may prove of value, but as a review of the Order's progress in Pennsylvania, it is positively worthless.

Companion William Maxwell, Grand High Priest, and Companion John Frizzell, Grand Secretary.

1869.

Stated Annual Convocation held in Nashville, September 29, Most Excellent Companion William Maxwell, Grand High Priest, presiding. Sixty-nine subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest made his annual address, in which he announced the appointment of Representatives to sister Grand Chapters, among which we find the name of Companion Alfred Creigh, to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania. A large number of official visits were made. Attention is called to the fact that subordinate Chapters are doing but little work, owing to the Grand Chapter prohibiting the use of substitutes. Dispensations had been granted for three new Chapters. A Chapter was prohibited from meeting alternately at two different points. Representatives from Grand Chapters of Scotland, Canada, South Carolina, Georgia, Indiana and Connecticut were received with appropriate honors.

The following decisions from the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence were adopted :

The High Priest of a Chapter states that an applicant for the degrees had been elected, and before the degrees were conferred, objections were filed with the Secretary to his receiving them, no charges having been preferred. That it has been standing in this condition for several years, and he asks this Grand Chapter to instruct him how to proceed.

Answer.—A Companion is not required to prefer charges, because he files objections. An objection has the same effect as a black ball, and the candidate can have his petition called up at the end of six months, and at the next stated meeting thereafter again balloted upon.

The Committee has had under consideration the question as to what officer of a subordinate Chapter should preside in the absence of the High Priest, King and Scribe, and is unable to find any authority upon the question, except the action of this Grand Chapter, which has been in the habit of approving By-Laws similar to those presented by — Chapter, which authorizes the next highest officer to preside in the absence of the first three officers.

The Committee is of opinion that, when a charter is granted, it is intended to be perpetual, and not required to remain dormant one year at a time, because of the absence, from any cause, of the first three officers. The charter being granted to the first three officers and the Companions of the Chapter, their rights should not be abrogated by the absence or failure to act of the officers.

The Committee is, therefore, of opinion that the repeated action of this Grand Chapter in the approval of By-Laws before mentioned is correct, and that, in the absence of the first three officers of a subordinate Chapter,

upon the next highest officer present devolves the right and duty to preside; but he may invite any Past High Priest or competent Companion to act in his stead.

In our opinion, this is a decision which will in time lead to much trouble.

Companion George S. Blackie, M.D., furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters.

Companion JOHN W. HUGHES, of Clifton, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JOHN FRIZZELL, of Nashville, *Grand Secretary*.

TEXAS.

1868.

Nineteenth Annual Convocation held in Houston, June 8, Companion F. B. Sexton, Grand High Priest, presiding. Forty-two subordinate Chapters represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest refers in a feeling manner to the ravages of the yellow fever during the year past, and to the death of Past Grand High Priest Companion H. P. Cartwell. He speaks very despondingly of the future, and says:

My Companions, all, never was there such a field for the exercise of all the Masonic virtues as is to be found in the times and circumstances which now surround us. Never within the recollection of any of us were the signs of the times so unpromising. We are in the midst of public disorder and private embarrassment. Old foundations seem to be broken up. All that is venerable, and all that is practical and useful, not merely in government, but in religion, in society, in morals, seems about to be swept away in the confusion of radicalism, metaphysical abstraction and foolish idealism. Masonry is threatened from the same sources. Material prosperity, too, seems to have well nigh forsaken the country, and every exertion made to better our condition seems to make it worse. The vista of the future opens up no cheering prospect. *All is night without*. Our people, our brethren and Companions especially, are depressed and stricken down by disappointment, misfortune, poverty and sorrow. Masonry can do nothing against the outside storm which is furiously howling and raging around us. Such is not the mission of Masonry. The storm must rage on till its force is spent. We must labor and wait. But we can help one another. Let us do this. If we find a brother in the midst of this storm without food or shelter, let us help him. If we find one whose head is bowed and cheeks furrowed with the agony of heart-heaviness—oh! my Companions, we frequently know not how high private sorrow and care pile up their load on the hearts of our Companions—let us help him. Let us smooth his path. We shall smooth our own thereby. Above all, my Companions, let us live

prepared for the summons of death, which no man can escape. We know not when the inexorable messenger may call for us, but we do know that our future happiness or misery is to be determined by the *work* we do in the body. It is our *work* by which we will be tried. Let us present such work as will pass the test of the Grand Overseer's Square ; as will secure for us admission into the realms of celestial light and glory, where the "Supreme Grand High Priest of the Universe forever presides, forever reigns !"

We find printed in the proceedings, the bonds of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer for the faithful performance of their duties.

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That a Royal Arch Mason, who is suspended by a blue Lodge, for any offence, is not entitled to any privileges in the Chapter, or to hold Masonic communication with Royal Arch Masons, until reinstated by the Lodge suspending him.

The Committee on Grand Officers' Reports reported that—

The rule laid down in regard to annual reinstallation of re-elected officers of Subordinate Chapters we believe to be erroneous, and not sustained by the Royal Craft. The installation or reinduction of a re-elected officer is not required by law or usage. It may be done, but if the officer was regularly installed when first elected, his re-election is but a continuation of service ; his installation obligations remain in force, and his induction into office in such a case is perfect, without repeating it.

We think the officers are elected only for the Masonic year, and they can remain in office until their successors are elected and installed. When the time comes for the election, if he is re-elected he should be reinstalled. If he were re-elected ten, twenty or more times, he should be installed each time. We do not think his installation obligations remain in force after his successor is elected ; and when the Masonic year is closed, the newly-elected officer should be installed, even if it is himself.

Companion A. J. Richardson furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-five Grand Chapters.

Companion J. D. Giddings, Grand High Priest, and Companion Robert Brewster, Grand Secretary.

1869.

Twentieth Annual Convocation held in Houston, June 14, Most Excellent Companion J. D. Giddings, Grand High Priest, presiding. Thirty-one subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest, in his address, states that he had issued dispensations for four new Chapters. He reports a novel case presented to his attention :

That of a Companion who has become insane, and in arrears for dues, which had accrued during that condition, submitting the question, Should the unfortunate Companion be suspended in conformity with the strict letter of the By-Laws, or what course should be pursued? Suspension for non-payment of dues is a punishment for the neglect of a known obligation. No judgment or sentence in a court of law, or in the forum of conscience, could be binding against a lunatic. He could be guilty of no wrong after the light of reason had been withdrawn, and does it not follow that the status of such should not be changed during such condition? He may be a husband and father. Again, reason may be restored, and as his mind emerges from this abyss of darkness and death, and the sweet and sacred memories of the past return, may he not long to greet his former Companions? Should any action be taken that would bar the exercise of charity against him, or his kindred?

There are two very simple ways to get over a difficulty of this kind: one is, for the Chapter to remit the dues; the other, in case the Chapter will not remit, for one of the Companions to pay the dues for him. This would be the Masonic manner of settling a case of this kind. We do not believe, however, that any Chapter of Royal Arch Masons would knowingly suspend an insane Companion for non-payment of dues. We are glad to report that the Grand Chapter decided that the annual remission of accruing dues by the Chapter in such cases is not only its right but its duty; and to suspend an insane Companion during his misfortune would not only be cruel but disgraceful, and an outrage on Masonic decency.

On the use of *substitutes*, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, It is reported to this Grand Chapter that its edict, enacted at the Annual Convocation in A. D. 1866, prohibiting the use of substitutes, has not been obeyed by some of the subordinates: be it

Resolved, That any subordinate Chapter hereafter using substitutes during the ceremonies of the Royal Arch degree shall thereby forfeit its charter; and it shall be the duty of any Grand Officer coming to the knowledge thereof to report the same without delay to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for his immediate action.

On conferring degrees on credit :

Resolved, That all subordinate Chapters be instructed never, under any circumstances, to confer the degrees belonging to the Chapter until the

fees have been deposited with the Secretary. And that no Chapter under this jurisdiction shall entertain any application for affiliation from any Companion who is in arrears for the fees required for conferring the degrees: *Provided*, That where the Chapter is demised, the applicant may pay the amount of fees due by him to the Chapter to which he applies.

The report on Foreign Correspondence, by Companions Tucker, Botts and Brewster, Committee, reviews the proceedings of thirty-two Grand Chapters. Pennsylvania has twelve lines allotted to her.

The Grand Chapter authorizes its subordinates to confer the Royal and Select Master's degrees after the exaltation of candidates. We find the following standing resolution on *balloting*:

Resolved, That one black ball cast against a candidate for Chapter degrees shall render him ineligible for one year, and two or more black balls, two years.

Resolved, That no Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall elect a candidate for the degrees, or for membership, unless there be nine balls cast on such application.

Companion W. G. VEAL, of Veal's Station, *Grand High Priest*.
Companion E. R. BREWSTER, of Houston, *Grand Secretary*.

VERMONT.

1867.

Annual Session held in Vergennes, October 2, Most Excellent Companion Edward S. Dana, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty subordinate Chapters represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest is quite lengthy. Six dispensations were granted for new Chapters. Prosperity and unity is reported from the subordinate Chapters.

Companion Joshua Britton reports on Foreign Correspondence. Twenty-four Grand Chapter proceedings reviewed, Pennsylvania not included.

Companion Charles E. Miles, Grand High Priest, and Companion John B. Hollenbeck, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Annual Convocation held in Brandon, October 7, Most Excellent Companion Charles A. Miles, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty-one subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest reports the record of the past year as a

satisfactory one: peace has been within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces. He states that he has received application from two different parties for a Chapter at the same place. He was unable to decide, and referred the matter to the Grand Chapter for action. Three important subjects were brought to their attention: First, Should they follow the example of the Grand Lodge, and give to the Grand Chapter a local habitation? Second, If it would not be well to resume their connection with the General Grand Chapter? Third, The adoption of a work, none as yet having been sanctioned by the Grand Chapter.

Companion Joshua Britton reports for the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included.

Aprons and jewels were ordered for the use of the Grand Chapter.

Companion Charles A. Miles, Grand High Priest, and Companion John B. Hollenbeck, Grand Secretary.

1869.

Annual Convocation held in Burlington, June 11, Companion Charles A. Miles, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty-three subordinate Chapters represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest recites his official actions during the past seven months. Death has been busy during that time, and summoned to the Grand Chapter above, Past Grand High Priest Companion Gamaliel Washburn, Past Deputy Grand High Priest Companion Samuel S. Butler, High Priest Companion Seth R. Day, High Priest Companion Ralph Stebbins, Past King Companion William K. Taft, Secretary Companion Guy B. Davis, High Priest Companion David Warren, Past High Priest Companion Henry J. Ruggles, and Companion George Lowry—all of whom receive a fitting memorial from the Grand High Priest.

Companion Britton reviews the proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Chapters.

Companion CHARLES A. MILES, of Brattleboro, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JOHN B. HOLLENBECK, of Burlington, *Grand Secretary*.

VIRGINIA.

1867.

Annual Convocation held in Richmond, December 12, Companion George W. Dame, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty-three subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered a lengthy and very appropriate address. Three Chapters, which had not made the proper returns for a number of years, received his earnest attention. To secure good, true and legal work in the Chapters, the Grand High Priest submitted a number of suggestions, giving the control of the work of the Chapter degrees to a Council of Order of High Priesthood, which, to our minds, will not secure the desired result of uniformity of work. The Grand Chapter is just as capable to exemplify and promulgate the true work as any Council of anointed High Priests. We have seen some High Priests anointed and consecrated and had presided for a year in a Chapter, who never were able to confer a degree intelligently or creditably to themselves or their Chapter. Would such an officer be capable of giving advice and instruction in the true work? The organization of Council of the Order of High Priesthood is to us entirely useless. It is a subject that is causing trouble and dissension in several of our sister Grand Chapters, and will do so until State Grand Chapters resume control of the Order of High Priesthood.

Speaking of the standard of qualification of candidates, he says :

Companions, we ought to raise a higher standard for the Royal Arch than is found in many Chapters ; a higher qualification, and a closer scrutiny of applicants must be had. Every member's friend will not make a Royal Arch Mason, any more than the stone on every man's land will make good building material. If the applicant has not exhibited proper specimens of skill and proper industry in his calling ; if he has not clearly laid a good foundation and erected thereon a superstructure which will bear the Plumb, Square and Level, you have no right to believe, or allow your charity to permit you even to suppose, that he will be skilful or even useful in ornamenting those projections which give character to the building and produce the strongest impressions on the eye of the intelligent beholder. If each craftsman as he approaches the Sacred Symbol, to pronounce upon the character of the materials brought up for inspection, would bear in mind that no permanent structure can be erected with materials not fit for use, or truly cemented by the daub of untempered mortar ; that it is not the number of stones in the building that makes it the beautiful temple, but their quality, the accuracy of their shape, their complete finish, their

perfect unison in unity, and presenting one clear, decided character, viz.: that of honor, worth and intelligence, they would, with more caution, guard the avenues, and more closely inspect the materials presented, and more accurately apply the Square to the work which is intended for use.

Charters were granted to three new Chapters.

A resolution was adopted, requiring the High Priest of each Chapter to cause to be read before his Chapter the printed proceedings of the Grand Chapter on the first stated meeting after their receipt.

Companion Edward P. Lane, Grand High Priest, and Companion John Dove, Grand Secretary.

1868.

Grand Annual Convocation held in Richmond, December 17, Companion Edward H. Lane, Grand High Priest, presiding. Representatives present from twenty-six subordinate Chapters.

The Grand High Priest reports the granting of two dispensations for new Chapters; and suggests that in future no charter be granted with the same name given to any Chapter now in existence in the jurisdiction.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence submitted a verbal report.

A magnificent golden *chain* and *mark* was presented to Most Excellent Companion John Dove, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter for fifty years.

The proceedings read that such of the Grand Officers as were present were introduced and inducted into office in due form, and such as were absent by proxy. Does the Grand Chapter of Virginia recognize proxy installations? If so, why not as well recognize and authorize *proxy initiations and exaltations*?

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a Chapter under dispensation has no territorial jurisdiction which would conflict with a Chapter under a charter. That a dispensation simply authorizes the Companions named to do such work as may be legally brought before them.

Companion EDWARD H. LANE, of Louisa Court House, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JOHN DOVE, of Richmond, *Grand Secretary*.

WISCONSIN.

1868.

Annual Convocation held in Milwaukee, February 5, Companion David H. Wright, Grand High Priest, presiding. Thirty-three subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest reported his official action during the past year. He had granted dispensations for three new Chapters. Decisions were given—that a Master Mason who has lost a limb cannot receive the Chapter degrees; that an elective officer of a Chapter cannot resign; and that the Treasurer of a Chapter cannot refuse to pay an order of the Chapter signed by the High Priest.

Companion A. B. Alden furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-four Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania not included.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Wisconsin acknowledges and recognizes no degrees of Masonry or order of Knighthood to be regular or legitimate, except those conferred by or under the authority of the following constituted authorities in the United States of America, and those of corresponding rank in foreign countries, to wit: The Grand Encampment of the United States; the Supreme Grand Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scotch Rite; the General Grand Chapter of the United States; Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Grand Lodges of the several States and Territories. And any Royal Arch Mason, who may have received, or who shall hereafter receive, any irregular degrees under the assumed name of Masonry or Knighthood, particularly those known as the "Egyptian Masonic Rite of Memphis," or the "Ancient Primitive Rite of Memphis of 33 degrees," is hereby required to withdraw therefrom, and to signify the same in open Chapter wherein he is or may be affiliated. And all Royal Arch Masons are hereby prohibited from holding Masonic intercourse with any Companion who shall refuse to comply with this edict.

Resolved, That no Chapter within this jurisdiction shall receive or take any action on the petition of any Master Mason who holds to such clandestine degrees, or who refuses to renounce the same in writing.

We do not think the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin or any other Grand Chapter should recognize or interdict any particular rite or system. The Grand Chapter may have had cause to adopt such a resolution. We hold that every Grand Chapter is supreme in its own jurisdiction. If any other organization claims to confer the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, there is a summary

manner to deal with them. Supposing those who had taken the "clandestine" degrees were in the majority on the above resolutions, and the above "clandestine" degrees had been acknowledged as legitimate; would this have made matters any better or worse? There is always danger in treading on dangerous ground.

Companion A. V. H. Carpenter, Grand High Priest, and Companion W. T. Palmer, Grand Secretary.

1869.

Annual Convocation held in Milwaukee, February 3, Companion A. V. H. Carpenter, Grand High Priest, presiding. Thirty-one subordinate Chapters represented.

The Grand High Priest, in his annual address, stated that he had issued one dispensation for a new Chapter; and that one application had been refused, for the following reasons, to use his own words:

But, after a full consideration of the matter, upon the facts, I became convinced that the welfare of the Companions and the honor of Capitular Masonry did *not* require it; and that, if granted, it would weaken Chapters in the vicinity, whose sources of support were already very scanty; and accordingly I returned them their papers, denying their request. My decision was not very welcome to the proposed officers, as I learned from a visit I received from them, in quest of an explanation, which was given; and as I have not heard from them again, I presume they recovered their equanimity. I have since learned that the Companion who was *willing* to sacrifice himself by serving as High Priest had only then been exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason some four moons. Under the circumstances, therefore, I am satisfied that the Order has received no detriment from his being remanded to the quarries.

Some degree of experience, or very extraordinary natural ability, should distinguish him who would seek the place, or be selected to preside over, organize and conduct the affairs of a new Chapter. And the Companions who would seek to set themselves up in the world as a Chapter, and intrust the management of the affairs thereof to a mere novitiate, must be wanting in reflection, or that degree of good sense which should characterize men who have passed through the degrees to the august one of Royal Arch Mason, and would form a constituency no capable Companion would *select* to preside over.

He decided that a verbal protest against a brother wishing to take the Chapter degrees should be respected until withdrawn, provided the Companion making the same remains a member of the Chapter; but in case he dimitts, the protest should be treated as in the case of a rejection by ballot.

The following suggestion to materially increase the efficiency of the Chapters we cordially endorse :

1. Provide that, whenever any constitutional number of Royal Arch Masons shall have signed a petition for a new Chapter, the *first three officers* named in such petition shall be examined openly before the Chapter to which they may apply for a recommendation. Such examination shall be conducted either by the Grand High Priest, or the Deputy Grand High Priest, or by some one appointed by the Grand High Priest ; and unless such Companions shall be found sufficiently proficient in the work and lectures approved by this Grand Body, to confer all the degrees, and instruct the candidates therein, in accordance with the requirements of the Grand Chapter, no recommendation shall be granted them. The examining officer shall be the judge of such proficiency ; and unless he certify that *the three, and each of them*, are so qualified, they shall have leave, in parliamentary language, to withdraw their petition, and wait until they are qualified.

2. Provide that no Chapter shall hold more than *one* regular convocation in each month ; that all petitions for the degrees shall be laid over from one regular convocation until the next ; that the Secretary of each Chapter shall give notice to all the Companions of his Chapter of the names of all persons to be balloted for at such convocation ; such notice to be either written or printed, and delivered in person, or sent through the post, at least six days previous to such convocation.

And, as a further safeguard, provide that the petition of a candidate, rejected by any Chapter in this jurisdiction, *shall not be received* by any other Chapter in this jurisdiction, unless upon the unanimous consent of the rejecting Chapter, by the *secret ballot*. A notice of such ballot to be taken shall be given in the same manner as provided for in the case of the petition of candidates for the Chapter degrees.

The entire address is worthy of a careful study.

Companion William H. Norris, Jr., furnishes the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-three Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania included.

The Grand High Priest was instructed to procure suitable regalia, clothing and jewels for the Grand Chapter officers.

Companion A. V. H. CARPENTER, of Milwaukee, *Grand High Priest*.

Companion W. T. PALMER, of Milwaukee, *Grand Secretary*.



The statistics of *Royal Arch Masonry* in the *United States* is as follows :

STATISTICS OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY

IN THE UNITED STATES.

	Number Subordi- nate Chapters.	Members.	Exaltations.	Admissions, etc.	Dimissions.	Expulsions.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Rejections.
ALABAMA.....	70	2,523	177	82	194	4	221	56	14
ARKANSAS.....	45	1,480	117	24	94	1	92	30	.....
CANADA.....	35	1,433	236	8	63	...	28	9	.....
CALIFORNIA.....	35	1,546	206	52	125	...	26	11	11
CONNECTICUT.....	27	3,415	287	9	17	2	1	36	.....
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA....	5	637	127	12	19	1	.....	2	.....
FLORIDA.....	16	492	45	5	24	...	.....	11	.....
GEORGIA.....	52	2,109	151	45	46	1	9	13	12
ILLINOIS.....	182	6,981	1,208	70	232	10	39	60	107
INDIANA.....	73	3,018	407	49	87	8	28	34	.....
IOWA.....	46	1,688	330	18	80	1	7	9	.....
KANSAS.....	10	351	59	16	12	...	13	4	7
KENTUCKY.....	87	3,701	457	60	161	3	42	40	31
LOUISIANA.....	24	1,400	69	18	58	...	1	33	2
MAINE.....	31	2,553	345	.....	45	...	1	24	28
MARYLAND, ETC.....	10	940	121	10	19	3	15	11	4
MASSACHUSETTS.....	44	5,005	619	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....
MICHIGAN.....	65	4,487	735	137	124	15	20	28	124
MISSISSIPPI.....	72	2,576	105	144	147	3	410	54	.....
MISSOURI.....	42	2,014	370	81	97	...	4	13	28
MINNESOTA.....	17	.....	91	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	..
NEBRASKA.....	4	183	17	1	10	...	.....	2	.....
NEW JERSEY.....	19	1,118	215	.....	43	1	24	12	.....
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	12	1,146	184	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....
NORTH CAROLINA.....	20	1,048	40	14	21	2	.....	15	9
NEW YORK.....	156	13,127	2,149	137	282	2	284	148	.....
OHIO.....	106	5,330	950	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....
PENNSYLVANIA.....	69	6,318	849	63	199	1	77	13	38
RHODE ISLAND.....	9	913	157	.....	.....	...	.....	12	24
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	24	776	127	8	27	...	25	6	.....
TENNESSEE.....	83	3,912	424	45	154	5	46	46	.....
TEXAS.....	95	3,218	232	92	153	8	231	67	.....
VERMONT.....	23	1,384	.....	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....
VIRGINIA.....	27	1,467	.....	.....	.....	2	83	20	.....
WISCONSIN.....	38	2,267	303	44	119	...	3	22	32
	1,673	90,556	11,909	1,244	2,652	73	1,730	841	471

From the *returns* in the office of the Most Excellent Grand Secretary, we have prepared and arranged a table of the *Statistics of Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania*. This table will be appended to the report of your Committee. The name and location of "dead" Chapters, and those which have been warranted but never constituted, are here given :

CHAPTERS, Etc., NOT AT WORK.

No.	NAME.	WHERE HELD.	DATE OF WARRANT, ETC.
75	Charlestown...	Renewed November 28, 1825.
104	New Holland...	" November 28, 1825.
106	Williamsport...	" November 28, 1825. No re- turns ever made.
113	Pittsburg.....	" March 11, 1825.
133	Chambersburg.	" December 27, 1825.
147	Bethany.....	
148	Montrose.....	
149	Huntingdon...	
151	London Grove..	Vacated.
153	Somerset.....	Vacated.
154	Lewistown.....	
155	Bellefonte.....	
156	Carlisle.....	Abandoned.
157	Easton	
158	Spring Grove...	Abandoned.
160	Vandalia, Ill...	Warrant April 4, 1840. Abandoned. No returns.
165	Uniontown.....	
168	Waynesburg...	
172	Tunkhannock..	
184	Kittanning.....	Warrant April 5, 1855. Sequestered.
188	Kittanery.....	Never constituted.
70	Athens	Warrant renewed May 21, 1827.
51	Philadelphia...	" " November 15, 1825; ceased 1824.
167	Bridgewater. .	
166	Gaysport.....	

M. E. MASTERS' LODGE.

No.	NAME.	WHERE HELD.	DATE OF WARRANT, ETC.
	Landisburg	April 7, 1828. Never constituted.

MARK LODGES.

No.	NAME.	WHERE HELD.	DATE OF WARRANT, ETC.
51	Philadelphia...	February 12, 1827.
67	Concordia.....	Philadelphia...	May 16, 1823.
213	Zerubbabel.....	Philadelphia...	May 20, 1839; vacated in 1841.
215	Kittanning.....	May 19, 1851.
138	Orwigsburg....	May 16, 1825.
139	Gettysburg....	June 20, 1826.
	Germantown...	May 21, 1827.
	Lebanon.....	June 19, 1827.
	Norristown....	October 19, 1827.
	Moorestown....	October 19, 1827.
	Downingtown..	April 7, 1828.
	Landisburg	April 7, 1828.
	Kensington	April 7, 1828. Warrant returned.
	Manayunk.....	April 7, 1828.
212	Easton	September 8, 1837.

Our work is completed. In closing, we would call the attention of the Grand Chapter to the principal points which have engaged the attention of several of our sister Grand Chapters.

The most important question of discussion is the use of SUBSTITUTES or PROXIES. We see no reason why the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania should turn from the old paths trodden by our forefathers.

The order of the HIGH PRIESTHOOD is under consideration in several of our sister Grand Chapters. In many of them the order is conferred in a Council of High Priests, presided over by a *President*. Why he should be styled President we have not been able to discover: the title is not in any way Masonic. The Grand Chapter of New York is, however, one of the exceptions, having within a year or two assumed authority over it.

The next subject of interest is the WORK. We must confess that in Pennsylvania we have not had that entire uniformity of work which was desirable. Within a few years past, very active efforts have been made by Past Grand High Priests Companions Samuel C. Perkins and George Griscom, and the present Grand High Priest Companion Michael Nisbet, and with such success that now the sole desire of the Royal Arch Masons in this jurisdiction is to have the work correct and uniform.

The PAST MASTER is another question causing much discussion and legislation. In several Grand Chapters a Past Master by service, or an actual Past Master, is required to "pass the Chair" a second time in the Chapter. Receiving our Masonic education in this jurisdiction, we believe that the method here is the correct one, and that all "passing to the Chair" is and of *right belongs* to the Grand Lodge. The candidate is a Past Master of a Blue or Symbolic Lodge, and we cannot understand how any Grand Chapter can authorize a Royal Arch Chapter to open and do the work of a Lodge of Master Masons.

In conclusion, it is fitting to apologize for this imperfect report, and the hasty manner in which it has been prepared. To be prepared properly it is the labor of months, embracing, as it does, the

period of two and in many cases three years, the proceedings to be reviewed containing over seven thousand pages.

We have done the best we could under the circumstances. It has been a pleasure to us to prepare it. May it prove satisfactory to the members of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

CHARLES E. MEYER,

For the COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE,

For the years 1868, 1869.

STATISTICS OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY IN PENNSYLVANIA,

As per Returns in the Grand Secretary's Office, accompanying the Report of the Committee on Correspondence, for 1868 and 1869.

SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

No.	NAME.	District.	WHERE HELD.	TIME OF MEETING.	Marked.	Re-Entered.	Admitted & Re-Entered.	Re-Entered.	Re-Entered.	Members.	HIGH PRIEST.	SECRETARY.
1	Jerusalem.	1	Philadelphia.	Fourth Monday.	31	31	2	6	1	9	William Felt.	Dennis F. Dealy.
21	Perseverance.	2	Burlington.	First Monday.	29	29	30	1	1	9	William H. Eagle.	Levi Wolfinger.
42	Payne.	2	Lancaster.	Fourth Wednesday.	16	16	15	1	1	247	George K. Reed.	Hugh S. Gera.
51	Payne.	3	Philadelphia.	First Friday.	16	16	15	1	1	360	Franklin B. Collier.	Frederick B. Riley.
61	Columbia.	3	Philadelphia.	Third Wednesday.	31	31	41	3	1	262	Edward Matthews.	J. Alexander Simpson.
90	Washington.	10	Washington.	Second Tuesday.	7	7	4	0	4	1	James M. House.	Hugh Key.
101	Washington.	10	Washington.	Second Tuesday.	9	9	4	0	4	1	John A. House.	John A. House.
159	Schuykill.	4	Minesville.	Thursday on or before Full Moon.	1	1	2	1	1	42	Seth W. Geer.	John F. Kunsius.
161	Union.	4	Towanda.	Wednesday after.	8	12	13	1	3	2	Patrick Phelon.	William A. Peck.
164	Zerubbabel.	14	Pittsburg.	First Tuesday.	25	25	22	1	8	1	William F. Lang.	William W. Wright.
171	Fayette.	14	Litch Haven.	Thursday before Full Moon.	9	9	4	1	1	137	William H. Brown.	William H. Smith.
184	Brownville.	13	Brownsville.	Second Tuesday.	4	4	6	0	0	1	William Chatland.	J. R. Beazell.
194	Mount Moriah.	12	Hodkissburg.	Third Tuesday.	2	2	3	0	0	5	H. S. Van Ties.	Thomas McFarlane.
197	Eureka.	14	Beaver.	Tuesday after Friday before Full Moon.	4	5	6	0	0	31	S. H. Spon.	John Conway.
199	Philadelphia.	14	Philadelphia.	Third Tuesday.	4	5	6	0	0	1	Charles B. Snowden.	John C. Snowden.
209	Delta.	10	Lawrence.	Monday on or before Full Moon.	6	6	5	1	3	1	Thomas Marshall.	John P. Leslie.
221	St. John's.	3	Carlisle.	First Thursday.	10	11	12	1	1	75	William Vance.	Israhel Cornman.
223	Zion.	3	Easton.	Fourth Monday.	23	22	21	1	4	2	Francis Viced Marner.	Daniel H. Nelson.
234	Northumberland.	10	Sunbury.	Wednesday before Full Moon.	7	8	6	1	2	123	Simon Selt.	Henry Vincent.
241	Keynote.	13	Philadelphia.	Fourth Thursday.	10	34	35	1	1	3	William H. West.	Alfred T. Jones.
243	George Washington.	2	Cumandordung.	Friday after Full Moon.	13	14	14	1	1	262	John Montgomery.	Henry S. Storer.
249	Tamanna.	4	Tamanna.	Friday after Full Moon.	13	14	14	1	1	69	John Halston.	William Harton.
251	Catawba.	4	Catawba.	Wednesday on or before Full Moon.	16	16	10	1	1	4	George Webb.	Clifton Ellis.
259	Eureka.	4	Lawrence.	Wednesday after Full Moon.	4	4	5	0	0	4	A. Davies.	A. Butlin.
260	Warren.	7	Montrose.	Thursday on or before Full Moon.	1	1	1	0	0	8	Daniel Brewster.	William L. Cwe.
261	Orleans.	7	Carlisle.	Thursday.	11	11	10	1	1	123	Robert W. Crook.	James H. Crook.
262	Shekiah.	6	Wilkesbarre.	Third Tuesday.	18	18	18	1	1	3	T. S. Hildard.	G. W. Kirkland.
263	Orleans.	6	Philadelphia.	Third Tuesday.	6	6	6	1	1	4	William T. Sears.	Joseph H. Redger.
264	Lackawanna.	6	Philadelphia.	Second Tuesday.	6	6	7	1	2	2	A. B. Stevens.	J. F. Brown.
265	Lewistown.	6	Lewistown.	Third Tuesday.	2	2	1	1	1	2	John H. Schelmer.	David E. Robeson.
267	Orleans.	10	Scranton.	First and Third Friday.	17	17	17	1	1	25	S. J. Thomas.	H. C. Littlefield.
269	Mountain.	12	Altoona.	First Thursday.	27	28	29	1	1	75	Henry W. Snyder.	David Bay.
270	Northampton.	1	Northampton.	Wednesday before Full Moon.	17	17	17	1	1	107	James H. Crook.	James H. Crook.
271	Salem.	1	Crawford.	First Tuesday.	17	17	17	1	1	75	P. B. Foster.	J. P. Bravley.
272	Cranm.	14	Grensdung.	Wednesday before Full Moon.	10	10	10	1	1	75	Edward J. Keenan.	John H. Higberger.
273	Altoona.	14	Pittsburg.	Fourth Tuesday.	10	10	10	1	1	132	James H. Crook.	James H. Crook.
274	Thos.	9	Wellsboro.	Fourth Tuesday.	5	5	5	1	1	45	Henry W. Williams.	Hugh Young.
275	Portage.	12	Johnstown.	Thursday on or before Full Moon.	3	3	3	1	1	45	Edward J. Keenan.	John H. Higberger.
276	Mountain City.	12	Pottsville.	Monday after Full Moon.	3	3	3	1	1	60	James H. Crook.	James H. Crook.
277	Wells.	12	Lelcanon.	Second Thursday.	2	2	2	1	1	63	George Webb.	Clifton Ellis.
278	Bowling.	1	Placerville.	Second Thursday.	2	2	2	1	1	60	James H. Crook.	James H. Crook.
279	Bowling.	1	York.	First Wednesday.	5	5	5	1	1	105	William H. Jordan.	Martin J. Skinner.
280	Columbia.	16	Columbia.	Thursday on or before Full Moon.	3	3	3	1	1	46	B. E. Phelps.	William H. Crook.
281	Standing Stone.	16	Scranton.	First Tuesday.	11	11	11	1	1	51	Joseph W. Crook.	J. Simpson.
282	Duwell.	1	West Chester.	First Monday after Full Moon.	11	14	14	1	1	51	D. Todd Jones.	Emmor B. Lamborn.
283	Anthony Wayne.	1	Allentown.	Monday on or before Full Moon.	11	11	11	1	1	51	Henry J. Tarble.	William Suman.
284	Fayetteville.	8	Fayetteville.	Tuesday after Full Moon.	4	4	4	1	1	32	Andrew J. Gilmore.	Giles S. Wilson.
285	Orleans.	8	New Brighton.	Wednesday on or before Full Moon.	6	6	6	1	1	32	Charles M. Moore.	Charles M. Moore.
286	Aaron.	15	Thierville.	Second Thursday.	18	18	18	1	1	32	James R. Barber.	Theodore J. Young.
287	Germania.	15	Germania.	Fourth Monday.	4	4	4	1	1	32	George K. Moore.	George A. Zacharias.
288	Samuel C. Perkins.	15	Scranton.	Thursday on or before Full Moon.	9	9	9	1	1	32	P. H. Heston.	James N. Hay.
289	Grand River.	15	Grand River.	Second Thursday.	11	11	11	1	1	32	William M. Moore.	William M. Moore.
290	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
291	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
292	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
293	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
294	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
295	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
296	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
297	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
298	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
299	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
300	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
301	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
302	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
303	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
304	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
305	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
306	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
307	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
308	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
309	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
310	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
311	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
312	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
313	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
314	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
315	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
316	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
317	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
318	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
319	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
320	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
321	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
322	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
323	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
324	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
325	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
326	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
327	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
328	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
329	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
330	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
331	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
332	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
333	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
334	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
335	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
336	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
337	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
338	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
339	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
340	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
341	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
342	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
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345	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
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347	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
348	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
349	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
350	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
351	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
352	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
353	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
354	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
355	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
356	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E. Milhouse.
357	Alfred.	15	Greenville.	Second and Fourth Monday.	9	9	9	1	1	32	C. D. Kugler.	Joseph E

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

May 16, 1864.—ARTICLE XV, LETTER F, SECTION 6, (page 32,) amended by adding to the end of the section the following words: “And that said second ballot shall be taken within six months from the date of the first rejection.”

May 15, 1865.—SECTION B, (page 26,) amended by adding a new sub-section, to be numbered 5.

“No Companion can be elected High Priest of a Chapter, who has not been elected and served a regular term as King or Scribe of a Chapter in this jurisdiction, except at the formation of a new Chapter; and no brother can be elected Master of a Most Excellent or Mark Lodge, who has not been elected and served as a Warden of a Most Excellent or Mark Master’s Lodge respectively, in this jurisdiction, except at the formation of a new Lodge.”

February 18, 1867.—Add to ARTICLE 1, (page 3,) after the words “And all Past Grand High Priests,” the words:

“Also all High Priests, Kings and Scribes for the time being of subordinate Chapters under this jurisdiction.”

For ARTICLE X, (pages 15, 16, and 17,) substitute the following, to wit:

ARTICLE X.

REVENUE OF THE GRAND CHAPTER.

The revenue of the Grand Chapter shall be derived from—

1. Fees for Warrants to constitute Royal Arch Chapters,

Most Excellent and Mark Masters' Lodges as follows, all charges being therein included :

For Warrant to constitute a Royal Arch Chapter, . . .	\$75 00
“ “ “ “ M. E. Masters' Lodge, . . .	50 00
“ “ “ “ Mark “ “ . . .	50 00

2. Dues to be annually paid on Saint John the Evangelist's day, by every Royal Arch Chapter and Most Excellent or Mark Masters' Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, as follows :

For each one made a Royal Arch Mason therein, . . .	\$1 00
“ “ “ “ Most Excellent Master therein, . . .	50
“ “ “ “ Mark Master therein,	50
“ “ Royal Arch Mason a member thereof,	40
“ “ M. E. and Mark Masters members thereof, . . .	40

Provided, That all Chapters and Most Excellent and Mark Masters' Lodges meeting more than ten miles distant from the city of Philadelphia shall have an allowance of *twenty-five per centum* upon the annual dues and fees for conferring degrees; *and provided, also*, That no Chapter or Lodge shall be required to pay annual dues upon any one of its members for more than one degree.

3. For Grand Chapter Certificates, each, \$2 00

No proposition to increase or diminish the fees and dues above established shall be received at any but a stated meeting, when it shall be forthwith communicated to every Chapter and Most Excellent and Mark Masters' Lodge under this jurisdiction, and shall be decided at the next stated meeting.

On motion, it was resolved,

That the foregoing Article go into effect from the time of its adoption.

Adopted, February 18, 1867.

May 20, 1867.—Amend ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1, of the Constitution by striking out “third Monday,” and inserting “first Thursday,” so that the section will read as follows :

“The Grand Chapter shall hold Quarterly Communications on the first Thursday in February, May, August and November, and

a Grand Communication on Saint John the Evangelist's day, in every year."

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Resolved, That the jewels of a Mark Master and Most Excellent Master Masons' Lodge shall be of the same form as those of a Master Masons' Lodge, but shall be gold or gilt.

August 1, 1867.—Strike out SECTION 10, LETTER G, page 35: "No suspension or expulsion shall be valid until submitted to and confirmed by the Grand Chapter."

December 27, 1867.—*Resolved*, That whenever a subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction shall receive a petition for the Chapter degrees from a Master Mason (brother duly qualified) hailing from another jurisdiction and sojourning in Pennsylvania, it shall be the duty of the High Priest of such Chapter, before referring such petition to a Committee, to correspond with the High Priest of the Chapter nearest to the applicant's former place of residence, in order to ascertain his moral character and his standing as a Mason, and whether said Chapter claims jurisdiction over him; and in case of jurisdiction being claimed, the applicant shall not be balloted for, until he shall have resided six months in this State.

February 6, 1868.—The following report was made by the Grand Officers, and, on motion, approved:

That the only amendment necessary to the form of "Petition to a Mark Lodge" is to add after the "blank," (see Form 10, page 72, Constitution Grand Chapter,) following the words "held at," in the body of the petition, the words "that he has passed the Chair."

May 7, 1868.

Amend ARTICLE XV, SECTION F, SUBSECTION 1, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, by inserting after the word "degree," in the second line, the words "or for membership in a Mark Lodge."

August 6, 1868.

Amend SECTION 2, LETTER D, ARTICLE XV, by adding the

following, viz.: "That Chapters located outside the city of Philadelphia be permitted to meet at such hour as may be determined by their by-laws."

November 5, 1868.

Amend ARTICLE 8, SECTION 5, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, by inserting after the word "meeting," in the fifth line, the words "at least once in each year," and after the word "such" insert the word "other."

DECISIONS AND DIRECTIONS

OF THE

Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

May 21, 1866.—The Most Excellent Grand High Priest decided that the jewels of a Mark or Most Excellent Lodge are to be of silver or white, not gilt or yellow.

November 19, 1866.—The Most Excellent Grand High Priest decided as to what constitutes “neglect,” as embodied in SECTION 9, DIVISION F, ARTICLE XV, “That if the applicant was in the city, his not coming forward was neglect.”

MASONIC HALL, PHILADELPHIA,
May 20, A. D. 1867, A. I. 2397.

To the Most Excellent High Priest of Chapter No. —:

DEAR SIR AND COMPANION: The Most Excellent Grand High Priest directs that attention be called to ARTICLE XV, E, SECTION 8, (page 30,) of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, which requires the Secretary of a subordinate Chapter to transmit forthwith to the Grand Secretary the names and dates of all the deaths, expulsions, suspensions, rejections and resignations in the Chapter. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest further directs that the Secretary of each Chapter shall transmit to the Grand Secretary a statement of each application for any of the degrees or membership, with the name, age, residence and occupation of the applicant. Such statement to be transmitted immediately on the receipt of the application.

This communication is to be read in open Chapter, and spread upon its minutes at the next meeting after its receipt. The Most Excellent High Priest is expected to see that the above Regulation is duly enforced.

JOHN THOMSON,
Grand Secretary.

February 6, 1868.—The Most Excellent Grand High Priest decided that no sojourner of a Mark Lodge can, under the recent amendment of the Constitution, be admitted to membership, without having passed the Chair.

August 5, 1869.—The Most Excellent Grand High Priest decided "That, in all cases, Chapters must open in the Royal Arch degree before proceeding to work; and after conferring the Mark or Most Excellent degree, the Chapter must be re-opened in the Arch, before closing for the evening."



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Abstract of proceedings

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